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7 International

Carlos gets life sentence



11 Weekender

The best movies of the year



12 Food

To a soulful year

INDEX

Business	15
Food	12
Movies, TV, Crossword	19
Opinion	10
Weekender	11
Sports	20

German sent by Hizbullah nabbed last month

By MARGOT DUKEVITCH

A German citizen sent by Hizbullah to carry out a suicide attack here was arrested by Israel Police and General Security Service officials on his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport on November 28. Details of the arrest of Stefan

Josef Smirak, a convert to Islam, were released by police and GSS officials yesterday.

According to security officials, Smirak, 26, was recruited by Hizbullah during a visit to Lebanon between August and November this year. During that period he was sent

to a training camp in the Bekaa Valley, where he was taught to use light weapons and operate explosive devices.

Police spokeswoman Linda Menuhin said that during the investigation Smirak said he was provided with video cameras and electronic communication devices

and sent to Israel to collect information and to film densely populated areas in Tel Aviv and Haifa in order to target a site for the attack.

His handlers in Lebanon also demanded that he change his passport in order to erase any traces of his Lebanese visit before traveling to

Israel. Menuhin said police also found a videotape in Smirak's possession that showed footage he filmed.

Once he completed the fact-finding mission he was ordered to fly to Turkey and contact his handlers there to finalize plans before returning to Israel to carry out the attack.

Further details are banned from publication, police said.

He will be brought before the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court this morning, where police will seek his remand until the end of legal proceedings against him.

This is the second time that Hizbullah has attempted to send an agent into Israel to carry out a terrorist attack.

In May 1996, police and the GSS arrested a Lebanese citizen carrying a forged British passport in the Lawrence Hotel in Jerusalem. The man was seriously injured when the bomb he was preparing exploded in his hotel room.

AGENDA

Arafat's palace

North of Hebron, near the former Civil Administration building, a new palace is going to be built. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is building another house for his wife, Suha, in the City of our Fathers.

Right near the structure that for 30 years served as the interrogation room of the General Security Service, another home for the rais will rise, to the tune of several million dollars.

The over-10-dunam plot was chosen carefully. It stands near the helipad once used by IDF generals. It overlooks the pastoral view of the Judean Hills, with the city of Hebron spread out below it. The planning of the home is finished: a model already stands in the office of Hebron Mayor Musafa Naishe.

Happy holidays in the territories

Near the nearly-dead wholesale market in Hebron, the PA has paved a boulevard with red stones, like in Switzerland. But that's where the development ends. In the middle of the city, Shuhada Street still carries no Palestinian traffic. Tension there is high. This living together in the same city is not doing much for either side.

But the worst scene is the garbage dump on the outskirts of Kiryat Arba, used by both Jews and Palestinians. Dozens of Arab children can be seen there, going through the garbage, looking for a piece of bread, a silver of cheese, or a yogurt thrown out by a Jewish child. It's happening half an hour from Jerusalem and only two minutes from Arafat's planned palace. A different world.

Now, in Hebron, there isn't that much tension between Fatah and Hamas, as there is elsewhere. In fact, the city's extended Arab families - who are affiliated all over the political map, from Islamic Jihad to those who collaborated with the GSS - have succeeded in maintaining fraternal peace and avoiding bloodshed.

But in their relations with Jews, it's a different story. Trying to educate toward peace under these conditions is a dream. The poverty only increases the frustration. And the frustration increases Hamas's appeal.

This year, the holidays of the three religions coincide. Today is Christmas and the second day of Hanukkah; next week, even before the New Year arrives, Ramadan begins. But forget about peace on Earth, and goodwill towards men. This confluence only increases the friction.

See AGENDA, Page 8



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat (second from right), accompanied by aides and bodyguards, strolls yesterday on the roof of Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. (AP)

Bethlehem has merrier Christmas

By HAIM SHAPIRO and news agencies

Festive colored lights and banners replaced Palestinian flags and giant pictures of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Bethlehem, as the town of Jesus's birth marked Christmas for the third time under Palestinian rule.

The change in tone apparently came in response to complaints from Christians that for the past two years, Christmas had been more of a national Palestinian event than a religious holiday.

Earlier in the day, the traditional procession by Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah from the

Patriarchate in Jerusalem to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem was delayed for about an hour, because Israeli police had found a suspicious object at Rachel's Tomb at the entrance to the town. The site, which marks the border of the Palestinian Authority, was later the point at which the Israeli guards accompanying the cleric were replaced by Palestinian policemen. The patriarch was met there by the mayors of Bethlehem, Beit Sahur, and Beit Jalla, who accompanied him into the town.

See CHRISTMAS, Page 17

Source in Netanyahu's office:

Security memo must be changed

By JAY BUSHINSKY and LIAT COLLINS

The memorandum of understanding drafted and initiated by Israeli and Palestinian security experts, in association with Central Intelligence Agency representatives, will have to be revised, a source in the prime minister's bureau said yesterday.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has deemed the memorandum unacceptable and will not sign it.

"We're talking only about a draft copy at the moment," Netanyahu told reporters yesterday. "The document has yet to be approved. Our instructions to our representatives were that they should go and listen to the other side and tell them of our demands that they fulfill their commitments. The security document at the moment is still only one of principles and is not a detailed plan."

The source said the plan "has many shortcomings and inadequacies. Drafts often are defective. It will have to be revised before it can be resubmitted to the Palestinian Authority."

He added that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai sees eye to eye with Netanyahu on this matter. He denied that Netanyahu cast aspersions on the senior IDF officers.

The opposition is claiming Yanai had drawn up a final map and security program for cooperation with the Palestinians in the fight against terror, but that the prime minister is now distancing himself from it.

The IDF issued a statement yesterday expressing its confidence in Yanai, saying, "Anyone who makes personal criticisms of OC Planning Branch or his task is mistaken."

Netanyahu was quoted by the ILM news agency as having said the work on the security memorandum has not been completed, because it has not yet been referred to the chief of staff, the judiciary, and the defense establishment for approval.

Emerging from a session with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Netanyahu said, "Only after it clears those quarters will it be submitted to the political echelon for final approval."

not presented maps.

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See MEMO, Page 2

Netanyahu, Yisrael Ba'aliya reach temporary budget compromise

Yisrael Ba'aliya will not - for the time being - vote against the government on the 1998 state budget, following a meeting yesterday between the party's MKs and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The party is demanding funding for several social issues in return. Without the party's support the government does not have a majority in the Knesset.

The two sides agreed that a committee would meet to discuss the party's demands. If agreement is not reached by Monday, however, Yisrael Ba'aliya will not vote with the government.

The committee comprises the directors-general of the Prime Minister's Office and Treasury, along with representatives of the National Infrastructure Ministry and Yisrael Ba'aliya.

BUDGET '98

By DAVID HARRIS

The party's key demands are: a rental aid update for single-parent families and older people; a general increase in state mortgages; and a special university program

for immigrants.

Tichon ejects Sarid from Knesset, Page 4

for immigrants.

The main bone of contention for the party is that state mortgages have not been updated for five years, during which time their

value has been eroded by some 50 percent. While the Treasury has offered to reduce that gap next year by 12.5%, or an estimated NIS 600 million, Yisrael Ba'aliya head Natan Sharansky is demanding considerably more.

Despite this development and other coalition demands, principally from the Geshet Party, Netanyahu was confident yesterday that the budget will be passed.

"There's no need to get so excited," Netanyahu said. "In previous Knesset years the government has lost more than 50 votes but still succeeded in passing the budget."

The Treasury yesterday denied reports that it has to find a NIS 1 billion cut to meet its budget deficit target of 2.4% of the gross domestic product.

See BUDGET, Page 17

Hospitals strike to protest changes in health system

By JUDY SIEGEL

The public hospitals are to begin an open-ended strike and operate on a reduced Shabbat schedule from 7 a.m. today to protest against the planned changes in the National Health Insurance system.

In addition, the community health fund clinics will handle only emergencies until 10 a.m. today and then

return to a normal schedule. In the hospitals, only vital departments such as neonatal, dialysis, and obstetrics will function normally.

Meanwhile, in a last-ditch attempt to prevent the Knesset from making major changes in the National Health Insurance law, directors of all the country's public hospitals and senior health system administrators will this morning demonstrate in a "protest encampment" outside the Knesset.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza plans to attend the protest as well. The proposed changes, approved by the Knesset Finance Committee as part of the Treasury-sponsored arrangements bill, would allow each health fund to set its own basket of services, transfer responsibility for the tipat halav family health centers to

health funds, allow insurers to charge extra for a wide variety of services and eliminate long-term geriatric nursing care from health fund responsibility.

Kupat Holim Cholim director-general Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg yesterday expressed concern for the continued existence of the public health system following the finance committee's approval of the proposed changes, which will come into effect if approved by the plenum.

These will bring about the establishment of two separate health systems - one for the well-off and another for lower socioeconomic groups, he said.

The average family will have to pay over NIS 1,000 extra annually for visits to doctors, hospital emergency rooms, outpatient clinics and other services, said Peterburg, who called for the separation of the health chapter of the arrangements bill from the rest of its regulations.

Dr. Bruce Rosen, head of the

Health Policy Research Program at Jerusalem's Brookdale Institute, said yesterday that although the finance committee stated the elderly, poor and chronically ill would be exempt from the extra health fund fees, no government subsidy has been offered to induce the insurers to keep such members, who are expensive to treat.

Without this, said Rosen, the insurers will do all they can to get such groups to leave; one of the great benefits of the National Health Insurance Law was that it provided incentives to the insurers to attract the poor, elderly and chronically ill, for whom they get an enlarged share of health taxes.

Previously, Rosen said, lower-income people paid health funds minimal dues, and the insurers didn't want them, but Brookdale studies have shown the three-year-old insurance law actually sought to reach out to these "undesirables."

Rosen added that changing arrangements for long-term geri-

atric nursing would leave the low-income sector without a realistic chance for such care, as they would not be able to afford private insurance for this purpose. This aspect of the proposed changes has been totally neglected until now, and no one has provided any answers, Rosen urged separating at least this issue from the arrangements bill so serious consideration can be invested during the coming months without doing major harm.

Health Ministry director-general Gabi Barabash expressed hope that MKs will vote against the proposals in the plenum. He noted that completely transferring responsibility for preventive health services to the health funds would be disastrous.

"Today, those health funds that provide preventive care instead of government-supervised tipat halav family health centers have only a 60% rate of full infant vaccinations, compared to over 90% in tipat halav centers," Barabash said.

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NEWS

in brief

Eitan: Pullback could bring down government

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan warned yesterday that the government would fall if any settlements were jeopardized by a further West Bank withdrawal.

Speaking during a visit to the Alon Moreh, Itamar, Har Bracha and Yitzhar settlements, Eitan said:

"This government has enough power to prevent settlements from becoming isolated or endangered. Decisions that threaten a settlement's existence or its dismantling will bring about the collapse of the government."

He also pledged to support the settlers' outcry against pullback plans, said Ahuva Shilo, spokeswoman for the Samaria Regional Council.

Margot Dudkevitch

Etzion barred from Jerusalem's Old City again

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court released a group of Hai Vekayam activists last night after jailing them for illegally attempting to hold Hanukkah prayers and to light candles on the Temple Mount. The movement's leader, Yehuda Etzion, was barred from entering Jerusalem's Old City. But Etzion vowed he would struggle through the courts and by other means to win full Jewish prayer rights on the Temple Mount. "The police wanted to keep me under arrest until the end of the process," Etzion said, but the judge didn't agree "and said that I am free to go until the police decide in five days whether they will request my arrest."

Elli Wohlgeleitner and Itim

Jordan lawmaker defends Knesset visit

Muslim fundamentalist lawmaker Mohammed Ra'fat said in Amman he does not regret his visit to the Knesset last Thursday. "I will repeat this visit twice, thrice and four times," Ra'fat told the daily *Al-Rai* yesterday, adding that he did it for the sake of gold and that on his next visit, he would call on all Israelis to convert to Islam.

Tichon discussed the peace process yesterday with Jordanian journalists in his office. He told them his own secretary was widowed in the Mahane Yehuda suicide bombings last July.

Uraib A-Rantawi, from the influential *Dustur* daily, said the meeting was "tense."

Liat Collins and news agencies

Driving instructors to block the roads

Some 4,000 driving instructors plan to block traffic with their vehicles today from noon until 2 p.m., their union announced yesterday. The protest is to demonstrate solidarity with driving examiners, who went on strike yesterday to protest plans for privatization. The examiners said they plan to continue their strike today. More than 4,000 road tests and hundreds of driving theory tests have been canceled due to the strike.

Itim

Testimony ends in Deri trial

The last defense witnesses concluded their testimony yesterday in the 40-month-long fraud trial of Shas MK Aryeh Deri in the Jerusalem District Court. During the testimony stage of the trial the court met 350 times, hearing 116 witnesses for the prosecution and some 30 for the defense. So far the transcript of the trial is 40,000 pages long. The next stage of the trial, the summations, is to begin in April 1998.

Itim

IDF kills Amal gunman

At least one gunman from the Amal Shi'ite movement was killed by IDF shellfire during exchanges in the eastern sector of south Lebanon yesterday. The army spokesman said gunmen had earlier fired mortars at IDF troops on operational duties near Huleh village, in the security zone.

There were no casualties among the soldiers and IDF gunners returned fire towards the origin of the shooting - a building used as an Amal headquarters in the J'majmei region north of the zone. The spokesman said at least one Amal gunman was killed.

David Rudge

Man kills wife, but fails in suicide bid

A 75-year-old man survived a suicide attempt yesterday after assisting his wife to end her own life. Neighbors called the police after finding Moshe Greenberg of Herzliya lying semi-conscious next to his dead wife, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease and apparently died of a drug overdose.

Greenberg, who was very sick himself, had taken his 70-year-old wife Malinda from the Mishan senior citizen's home she was staying in to their apartment. Greenberg, still semi-conscious, was taken to a hospital emergency room where his stomach was pumped after large quantities of tranquilizers were found in his system.

Michal Yudelman

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The funeral will take place today, Thursday,
December 25, at 1:30 p.m., at the Haifa Cemetery,
Kfar Samir (Oren Gate).

Kurt Shlomo Jagerman
Ida Moshal
Yael and Effi Lavie
Dana and Amir Hayek
Sharon and Assaf
Gideon
Sivan, Yuval and Maya

PM denies hiding pullback figures

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday denied reports that he had told the US and Palestinians the scope of further redeployment, but that he was keeping the information from the cabinet until after the state budget has passed.

Last night Israel Radio reported Labor MK Uzi Baram as saying Foreign Minister David Levy was the senior source who claimed that Netanyahu was withholding information from the cabinet.

"The reports that I had told US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright the percentage of the redeployment are false. I never did that," Netanyahu told reporters following a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"It's not my personal decision," he continued, "but it is the government which has to decide on these most important issues, including on the permanent

arrangements. No scope of redeployment and no figures were given."

He said the opposition is guessing at the final figures. "So that if they come close they can say: 'We told you it was decided in advance.'" He said the process is complicated and still under discussion in the cabinet.

"Unlike in the Oslo Agreement when the ministers and defense establishment had no idea that something was going on, we're doing it the other way round," said Netanyahu. "These discussions will determine the country's future and security and we must be careful and responsible. We must examine national interests and deduce the scope of the redeployment from this," he said. "The process of [cabinet] discussions on the subject have yet to be completed and therefore I could not give anyone the scope of the redeployment."

Netanyahu and Levy agreed to meet this

morning to discuss their mutual concern about the current pace of the peace process, the prime minister's spokesman, Shai Bazak, confirmed.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said yesterday that Netanyahu had agreed to a 10.5 percent to 12 percent redeployment, but is delaying announcing it until next month. He also accused the prime minister of giving in to US dictates.

Likud MK Ze'ev Begin made a similar claim, saying Netanyahu had already given in "to a PLO-Hamas alliance." Netanyahu denied this and also rejected reports that he was keeping Levy in the dark. "I value his work and his contribution to the peace process," Netanyahu said. "We have worked together and am sure we will continue to work together."

He denied he is considering holding early elections.

Netanyahu reportedly told the committee the government continues to stand by

the principle that progress depends on the Palestinians fulfilling their commitments.

Netanyahu told reporters the US is helping, not determining, the policy for Israel. "There is a US commitment that the Palestinians will abide by the agreements," he said. "[US negotiator] Dennis Ross has signed on this. If there is no terror activity we can meet and take decisions [on the redeployment] during January," he said.

He reportedly told the MKs that he had given orders that not one settlement be touched, adding: "I don't think that in Washington, thousands of miles away, they understand the importance of a security zone."

Regarding the European Union, Netanyahu said Israel must continue to present its side as the only way to moderate the EU's automatic support of the Palestinians.



Hanukkah hysteria

Soldiers get into a jam as they tuck into a record-breaking four-meter high pyramid of 6,400 doughnuts in Dovrat.

(Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Ateret Cohanin demands better security

By ELLI WOHLGELEITNER

Ateret Cohanin yeshiva students demanded upgraded security yesterday, warning in a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that their safety was at risk and that the onus would fall on the government if they came under attack.

Their concern has grown in the aftermath of the slaying five weeks ago of yeshiva student, Gabriel Hirschberg, and the subsequent stabbing and wounding of another student near the Damascus Gate entrance to Jerusalem's Old City.

"We absolve ourselves of any responsibility for the situation that exists now including all the terrible risks involved in it," wrote yeshiva executive director Yossi Baumol.

Despite promises last week that security in the Old City would be improved, only three security personnel were spotted during a one-hour tour of the Moslem Quarter yesterday afternoon.

Baumol indicated there were two main differences with the authorities over how to improve security. One was over the yeshiva's demands for gun permits for private guards.

"In our meeting a month ago," Baumol wrote Netanyahu, "you ordered us to make sure that our students move through the alleyways of the Old City under armed guard provided by the Modi'in Ezrachi company funded by the Housing Ministry. Unfortunately, the company cannot put the guards into action for a month now because the Israeli police has not found a way to provide them with the necessary permits for their guns."

The second issue is a conflict with police over whether to add foot patrols or guard posts. Baumol would prefer adding permanent positions so that students know where to get help.

Jerusalem Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said a decision was made against setting up a fixed position.

CLARIFICATION

On Tuesday, December 16, *The Jerusalem Post* published a list of individuals who have unclaimed property registered in the Polish land registry. Those who found their names on this list, compiled by Poldoor International Ltd., should contact the company at (03) 6915597 or in New York at 212-532-5740. The company also has offices in Brussels and Paris - and not as reported.

Elon's 2nd Hanukkah miracle

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Emunah Elon experienced her second Hanukkah miracle in as many years Tuesday night when she escaped unscathed with her daughter and 18-month-old grandson from a shooting at her car near the Morag intersection in the Gaza Strip.

Elon, a former advisor to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on women's affairs and wife of Moledet MK Benny Elon, had another close call when she passed Beit El moments before a shooting at the same spot killed Yoel and Ita Tsur as they drove by, and their son Ephraim, during Hanukkah

1995. "Tuesday's incident was a double miracle," Elon the MK, said yesterday. "My wife who acted like a general when Ita and Ephraim were murdered acted like a general on Tuesday night and kept calm. But for us it is a double miracle not only did Emuna and Hila emerge unscathed but we now have a new grandson," he said, referring to the reason why his wife had driven to Gaza.

Elon said his wife had attended the Hanukkah lighting ceremony at the Knesset before setting out with their daughter Hila for Morag when her daughter-in-law went into labor.

MEMO

Continued from Page 1

The prime minister denied that he turned a cold shoulder to the military establishment, contending that the opposite was true. He contended that IDF officers have been doing dedicated and important work in the political domain. "I have full confidence in the IDF and its officers," he said.

Netanyahu said the issue is not only a security document, but also a detailed work program that includes a built-in mechanism for internal control and evaluation.

MK Uzi Baram (Labor) described the committee meeting

as "one of the most miserable" he had ever witnessed, saying Netanyahu came under attack from both Left and Right over his reported criticism of the security memorandum.

MK Haim Ramon (Labor) accused Netanyahu of "for political reasons, cynically hurting and abandoning the heads of the defense establishment who worked on his behalf. The prime minister did not hesitate to shoot Yanai in his professional back," Ramon also accused Netanyahu of misleading the committee.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid told Netanyahu: "You say things and nobody believes you. This is the most serious problem Israel has, that nobody believes you."

My gratitude and sincere thanks to

the Custodian of the Holy Land, Father Maher (Maghar), the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center, the French Consulate, the Consistoire Israelite Nice and Paris, Keren Kayemeth Leisrael, the Moriah Plaza Hotel, Tiberias, and to the doctors and to St. Joseph's Hospital for the assistance and support they provided, in connection with the death of my mother, my accident, and sickness.

I wish them all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR - 1998

Dr. Beatrice Kellermann

Appeal to a Witness

I ask the witness who assisted me after the accident, which took place at the Moriah Plaza Hotel, Tiberias, on August 20, 1994, to contact me, as soon as possible, at the Notre Dame Center, Room No. 114, or to telephone me (02-627-9111).

With grateful thanks,
Dr. Beatrice Kellermann

IDF should be consulted on security agreements

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's criticism of a memorandum of understanding on security

IN CONTEXT

Likud MK Gideon Ezra, ex-deputy head of the GSS, also stressed professional advice was important in reaching security decisions.

The GSS and the IDF are responsible for preventing terrorism, catching terrorists and dealing with the problems on the ground. They have to be involved," said Ezra.

But he said this did not mean that politicians had to agree with whatever document the IDF drew up.

"There also has to be a time clause to enable us to see that the Palestinians are honoring their side of any agreement that is reached."

Ezra maintained that the government should drop a clause requiring extradition of terror suspects. "Anybody who adheres to this clause does not really want an agreement with the Palestinians because it is unworkable. Could you see us extraditing Jews to the Palestinians?" Ezra said.

Prof. Barry Rubin at Bar Ilan University said that in the absence of a national security council, the military had to be consulted on security issues. He noted instances in which the government erred in not considering the military's advice.

"If the military advises on something and this advice is ignored and there is a problem in the future, the politicians will be called to account for it. An example of this was the opening of the tunnel in Jerusalem," which triggered riots last year, he said.

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Walker denies Luxor charges

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The new American ambassador to Israel, Edward S. Walker Jr., presented his credentials to President Ezer Weizman yesterday in a dignified yet festive ceremony that symbolized the highlight of the US diplomat's 30-year-long career.

A military honor guard welcomed Walker as he strode along the red carpet laid out for him and the police band played the "Star Spangled Banner."

After emerging from Weizman's office, where the chief of state and the envoy engaged in a brief chat after completing the requisite formalities, Walker expressed "delight" at being back in Israel. He began his work with the US foreign service in Tel Aviv 30 years ago as then-ambassador Walworth Barbour's assistant.

"We have a lot of work to do," said Walker, who goes by the nickname, Ned, "and hopefully we can be of help to the government in its efforts to bring about peace with security."

He pledged that he and his staff would make every effort to that end and said he is looking forward to "interesting days."

Asked about *The Jerusalem Post's* report that he told Foreign Minister David Levy that Iran was behind the terrorist attack in Luxor, Egypt, last month and that the linkage was to the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Walker said: "No, that is not exactly what I said."

He refrained from going into further detail, saying only, "I will let



US Ambassador Edward Walker inspects an honor guard at Beit Hanassi yesterday.

the Foreign Ministry tell what they want to on this issue."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On refused to comment on the Levy-Walker discussion.

Prior to the credentials ceremony, a senior ministry official denied that it was Walker who pinned the

blame on Iran in the course of his meeting with Levy Tuesday afternoon.

"The remark was made en passant," the official said. "He informed the foreign minister that the prevailing assumption in Egypt was that Iran is responsible for the

wave of terrorism sweeping the country."

Walker was based in Cairo as the US ambassador from 1994 until his appointment to the US's Tel Aviv embassy two months ago. The official, who attended his meeting with Levy along with six

other persons, said Walker cited the consensus in Cairo that Iran supports Egypt's Islamic extremists. He also denied that Walker told Levy that the Luxor massacre was carried out by the attackers in coordination with the Iranian embassy in Damascus.

New treatment for prostate cancer

By JUDY SIEGEL

An implant containing a compound that suppresses the production of testosterone in men has been developed by an Israeli-American team to treat metastasizing prostate cancer. It has been used in clinical studies on 34 patients, and it could take two years for it to gain approval from the US Food and Drug Administration.

The implant, which is inserted into the skin, was developed by Prof. Irving Spitz of Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital with scientists from the Population Council in New York. Although histidine, a synthetic form of the natural hormone LH-RH — which controls the body's production of sex hormones — has been around for some time, the delivery system via a hydrogel implant is the innovation.

Implanting the 2.6 cm. long capsule under the skin on the inner part of the arm is a simple procedure (some women undergo Norplant implants under their skin to prevent pregnancy).

Until now, this type of prostate cancer has been treated by castration or quarterly injections of testosterone suppressors, which are painful and inconvenient.

Spitz, who heads the hospital's hormone research institute, conducted a study of the implant along with Dr. Amitsur Farkas, who heads the urology department, and Prof. Raphael Catane, who heads the oncology institute. The implant is also being tested at Cornell University and the University of Salzburg.

Spitz said that prostate cancer is the first type of tumor proven to be connected to hormone production.

MKs set up caucus for Pollard

By LIAT COLLINS

Quiet diplomacy has failed to gain convicted spy Jonathan Pollard's release, so the time has come for open and intensive activity instead, said MK Ophir Pines (Labor) yesterday when he inaugurated the Knesset Caucus for Pollard.

The new lobby received a sizeable turnout of ministers and MKs, including Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who both recently met with Pollard in jail. MKs Yona Yahav, Elie Goldschmidt (both Labor), Gideon Ezra (Likud), Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahlom (National Religious Party), Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi, Avraham Herschov (Likud) and Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'aliya). Pollard's lawyer Larry Dub was also present.

Pines said the current government is the first to recognize Pollard and said he hopes US President Bill Clinton will pardon Pollard in honor of the jubilee.

Livnat said Pollard had asked that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and opposition leader Ehud Barak draw up a joint request to Clinton for his pardon.

Livnat said a number of US senators and congressmen had stopped their activities for Pollard follow-

ing reports that the Foreign Ministry has reservations about open actions calling for his release.

She said Pollard had also asked that the Defense Ministry publish an official announcement that he was employed by the state, not via the Mossad or General Security Service.

Livnat added that Israel must exploit the current momentum for his release.

Edelstein said hundreds of people had asked to help Pollard. He suggested the lobby ask the chief rabbis to include Pollard's name in the prayer for MIA's and POW's, a practice Edelstein said exists in his synagogue.

Ze'evi said that while most of those convicted of espionage in the US in recent years had been released after three to four years, Pollard is still in prison after 12 years. He said this is because the US intelligence community and Justice Department are putting pressure against his release, and neither the Jewish community nor the Israeli government is counter-acting this.

Ezra said the matter should be raised at the World Jewish Congress.

It was concluded that the caucus would support open diplomatic activity for Pollard's release as a humanitarian gesture and act on his behalf in Alpac and the American Jewish Congress.

Easygoing before the big vote

Wednesday 9 a.m. — the sixth vote of the day on the 1998 budget arrangements bill in the Knesset. The result? A victory for the opposition by 44 votes to 42. The outcome? The official title of the arrangements bill — The Intensification of Growth and Employment bill — is rejected.

The Knesset Finance committee convenes and a half hour later agreement is reached. The new name — The Intensification of Growth and Employment in the Economy bill. The purpose? A classic parliamentary filibuster.

That was the main thrust of yesterday's discussions — long-winded speeches aimed at taking up as much time as possible ahead of the anticipated December 31 budget votes.

BUDGET '98

By DAVID HARRIS

At any one time there were no more than 10 MKs in the plenum, with the exception of key voting times when whips and their aides frantically scoured the building for absentees, with one and sometimes two cellular phones pressed to their ears.

For many MKs it is a relief to be confined to the Knesset for the day, as many of the usual committee meetings are canceled.

Furthermore, while one would anticipate a rather somber atmosphere in the corridors of power, there's something of a

carnival feeling to the proceedings.

Perhaps the best location for an up-to-date view of developments was a perch just outside Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's Knesset office. Throughout the day a stream of MKs, party delegations and senior civil servants filed in and out of Neeman's inner sanctum. The religious parties, the immigrant's party and a delegation of Arab MKs entered hopefully and exited tight-lipped, one after another — their election manifesto pledges either dashed for another 12 months or at long last fulfilled.

And so this annual festival will continue until midnight December 31, when 120 MKs decide the fiscal fate of the country for the year ahead.

Tichon ejects Sarid from Knesset

By DAVID HARRIS

Knesset speaker Dan Tichon yesterday threw Meretz leader Yossi Sarid out of the Knesset plenum in a dispute over allegations that the Speaker delayed a budget vote for lack of a coalition majority.

Sarid accused the Speaker of showing political bias.

"I won't leave," shouted Sarid. Later, Tichon told reporters he believed it was the first time that an MK has ever disobeyed a Speaker's orders to leave.

Sarid countered with a news conference during which he said that in his 25 years in public life he could not recall a Speaker who acted with such political bias.

The incident began when

Tichon entered the plenum just before 8 a.m. to oversee the first votes on the 1998 budget arrangements bill. "I knew there was no majority for the coalition," explained Tichon, "but despite that I told both the coalition whips the vote would take place at exactly 8 o'clock."

Within seconds after the stroke of 8, Sarid and other opposition MKs shouted out, accusing Tichon of delaying the vote. Tichon later denied this. At the time he responded by calling Sarid to order three times, and then demanded that he leave the plenum, which Sarid refused to do.

Tichon then closed the session and opposition MKs accused him of doing so as a delay tactic.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Zionist congress

The 33rd Zionist congress opened Monday in Jerusalem and the Hebrew press pondered over its purpose and prospects of functioning in the future. "The 33rd Zionist Congress, taking place on the 50th year of the state, might also be the last," claims *Ma'ariv's* Lili Galili commenting on the scanty funds that the movement is receiving and the lack of interest that the congress is drawing. She quotes one of the delegates of the congress, Yuly Koshrovsky, saying: "The Zionist congress is an abstract idea. The public doesn't understand its purpose, and even the participating delegates have a hard time understanding its structure."

According to Amos Carmel in *Yediot Aharanot*, the initial celebration of the history of almost one hundred years of Zionism, has been usurped by political interest. "What does it have to do with the real problems of the world's relations with the state of Israel and the Jewish people?" he asks, adding that the foreign delegates participating in the event are either do-gooders or people lusting for political involvement. The Israeli delegates, he states, representing party mechanisms, have nothing, necessarily to do with the Zionist agenda. However, "The Zionist agenda is holding up despite the interested parties."

Labor lost

In light of the growing social ruptures between Haredi and secular communities; the rich and the poor, highlighted by the unemployment rate, commentators conveyed their disappointment in the Labor party's apparent passivity regarding social problems.

Haim Asa in *Ma'ariv* accuses opposition members of making their pursuit of positions their only aim, should Labor leader Ehud Barak win the next elections. Asa also attacks Barak for not giving the people of Ofakim hope, or providing them with any leadership, in his recent visit there. "Labor should have taken this social crisis under its wings bringing into its own court this suffering segment of the population," he writes.

Yediot's Nahum Barnea addresses the inequality between Haredim and secular Jews as far as the budgets are concerned and the services that the Haredi parties are able to provide for their community, as opposed to the secular parties characterized by "chattering, idleness and false liberalism." He adds that "there is no one who will cry out no Meretz; no Labor; whoever wants social services should go to the Haredim."

According to Ya'acov Yona writing in *Ma'ariv*, the same people who live in towns hardest

hit by unemployment, are those who, against their own interests, helped bring Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to power. "Labor must sincerely woo Netanyahu deceived supporters... who see how they have disappeared from the agenda of a government which has helped raise to power the settlers and the Haredim."

Coming together in Athens

Likud coalition members and top Palestinian officials discussed their divergent positions last week during a four day convention in Athens, initiated by Israel's International Center for Peace. *Ma'ariv's* Shalom Yehushalmi reports on the convention, saying that although there were no far-reaching results, "both sides finally got to know one another."

He adds that "Such a meeting, which brings together right-wing Israelis and Palestinians in formal and informal get-togethers is worth much more than any pompous convention of international experts."

Shetreet also bridges a gap

Other stands were bridged this week, this time between the Likud and Labor parties following coalition chairman Meir Shetreet's statement that he would agree to a Palestinian state if the Palestinians agree to give up Jerusalem. *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid concludes that Shetreet's position is not any different from Ehud Barak's. "Now that the right-of-the-left and the left-of-the-right have converged, it seems that the process [of accepting a Palestinian state] has arrived."

Two holidays

Hanukkah and Christmas are celebrated this year in the same week, "and for the first time in history a Hanukkah candle is being lit in the Vatican," states *Ma'ariv's* Lapid who adds that a Hanukkah candle can not erase history of the Christian persecution of the Jews, "but it can light a small hope for future reconciliation."

Where to eat in Israel

ELAT

TANDOORI Indian Restaurant — The only restaurant in Israel where price SHAKES HANDS with QUALITY and quantity smiles. Live traditional Indian dancing daily. King's Wharf Lagoon Hotel. Tel/Fax: 07-533 878, 836 6674. Open noon-3:30 p.m.; 6 p.m.-midnight

HERZLIYA PITUAH

TANDOORI Indian Restaurant — Only restaurant where price SHAKES HANDS with QUALITY and quantity smiles. Buffet Lunch NIS 45 (children NIS 23). Open noon-3 p.m.; 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Mercatim Building, 32 Maskit St. Tel. 09-954 6702, Tel/Fax 954 6768.

ATLANTIS FISH & SEA FOOD RESTAURANT — Three Course Business Lunch for only NIS 59 (incl. one glass of wine). Open daily noon-1 a.m. Mercatim Building, 32 Maskit St. Tel. 09-956 8958.

JERUSALEM

ANGELO RISTORANTE ITALIANO — Frommer's 1997 Guide says, "The most superb pasta in the country." Also fresh fish & Roman specialties. Kasher Dairy. Call owners Angelo Di Segni / Lori Rosenkrantz for reservations. 9 Horkanos. Tel. 02-623 6085.

BIRD OF PARADISE (Old City) — Fresh home made food - Dairy and vegetarian cuisine, mellow atmosphere in the heart of the Old Quarter, live music and poetry. Kasher 56 Chabad St. (above the Cardo) Tel. 02-626 4723.

DARNA — Authentic Moroccan Restaurant, KOSHER. Our home is your home, 3 course business lunch, incl. traditional mint tea. Only NIS 59, with this ad. Open 12-3 p.m., 6:30-11:30 p.m. 3 Horkanos St. Tel. 02-624 5406.

ESHEL AVRAHAM AVINU — Glatt Kasher Limeshachin. Delicious mixed grill, meats & fish prepared on the grill. Also superb shawarma, soups & salads. Open 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., including, Motza'el Shabbat & Hag. 9 Yimaynu St. Tel. 02-637 3584.

GUCALYPTUS — The taste of Israel from Biblical Days. Excellent meal, fish & vegetarian dishes enhanced by a masterful use of herbs and spices. Luncheon specials. Evening entertainment. Rave reviews. Kasher. 7 Horkanos St. Tel. 02-624 4331.

HECHAL SHILOMO — RESTAURANT/CATERERS serving you the best, freshest, most delicious food in an exclusive environment. Functions for up to 150. Brit Milahs, Bar Mitzvahs, 7 Brachos. 58 King George St. Glatt Kasher/meat. Tel. 02-622 3312.

KOHINOOR Kasher Indian Restaurant — Kashrut supervision by Rabbi Yosef Fink. Buffet lunch NIS 47 (children NIS 24) Open 12-4 p.m.; 6 p.m.-midnight. Holiday Inn Hotel, The Crown Plaza. Tel. 02-658 8867, Tel/Fax. 02-653 6667.

LITTLE JERUSALEM — The Ticho House. Kasher Dairy & Fish. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner. Delightful garden setting. Free entrance to the famous Anna Ticho Museum. Live Jazz Tuesday evenings. 9 HaRav Kook St. Tel. 02-624 4186.

MARVAD HAKSAMIN ORIENTAL RESTAURANT — Mid-Eastern and Yemenite food. Kasher/meat Open for lunch & dinner till 11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs., Fri. till 3 p.m. 16 King George St. Tel. 02-625 4470.

NORMAN'S STEAK'N BURGER — Freshest burgers, steaks, ribs, chicken, fish, salads and more, grilled to perfection. Family dining, American atmosphere & service. Kasher Jerusalem Rabbinate. 27 Enef Rabin, German Colony. Tel. 02-586 6803.

PERA & MELA (Agas Ve Tapuah) — Authentic pasta & Italian specialties, prepared by former Italian, Giannan & Miniam Otiolenghi. Also crepes, pizzas. 7 Hamatlat St. (off King George). Tel. 02-625 1975 Kasher-dairy. Glass of wine with this ad.

RESTAURANT MISHKENOT SHAANANIM — Superb French cuisine for lunch & dinner, 7 days a week. Outstanding wine cellar, elegant setting — spectacular view — private room. Located in Yemin Moshe (below the Guest House). Tel. 02-625 1042.

RIENZI — Candlelight dining in an elegant decor. Fresh fish and homemade pasta. Kasher-Dairy. Business lunch from NIS 35. Open Saturday night. 10 King David St. (across from Hebrew Union College). Tel. 02-622 2312.

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SHEINERS — Kreplach Soup to Jerusalem Mixed Grill. Great food at reasonable prices, served in a cozy modern setting. Luncheon specials. Open noon-11 p.m. Glatt Kasher-Limeshachin. Kanfei Nesharim 24, Givat Shaul. Tel. 02-651-1446.

SIGMUND CORNER BISTRO/CAFE — Art deco decor. Serving kosher crepes, sandwiches, soups & brewed coffees; reasonable prices. Sun.-Thur. 7 a.m.-1 a.m., Fri. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat. 8:15 p.m.-1 a.m. Corner Azza/Harari Sts. Tel. 02-563-9212.

SURFERS' PARADISE — The only kosher Internet restaurant in Israel. Delicious pasta, soups, salads, pies. Surf the Net/ACQ/Email/Scan photos. 4 Dorot Fishonim, off Ben Yehuda Mall. Tel. 02-623-6934.

THE 7TH PLACE — Popular Jerusalem dining spot, authentic Southern Indian and dairy cuisine. Spacious, bright and friendly. Live show every night. Kasher. 37 Hillel St. (Beit Agnon — the journalists center). Tel. 02-625 4495.

TROCADERO — New Italian Restaurant and Coffee Shop in the elegant Judaea Center at Gush Etzion Junction. Magnificent views. Private Party facilities. Free glass of wine with ad. Open 8 a.m. — midnight & Sat. night. Kasher dairy. Tel. 02-993 4040.

TZADDIK'S New York Style Deli — Jerusalem's authentic deli. Corned beef, roast beef, brisket, salami, all-beef hot dogs, H&M bagels, draft beer. Kasher-Mehadim. 2 Tiferet Yisrael St., The Jewish Quarter. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Tel. 02-6272148.

RIMON RESTAURANT — "A Jerusalem Landmark". Grilled Meats and Middle Eastern cuisine. Steaks, shawarma, shish kebabs, fish, chicken, lamb. Indoor-outdoor seating. Glatt Kasher-Limeshachin. 4 Luntz St. (next to Cafe Rimmon). Tel. 02-624 3712.

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Israel Airports Authority

TENDER NO. HET MEM 10/97

For the concession to provide management and operating services at a family leisure center with automatic game machines, in the arrivals hall of Ben-Gurion Airport.

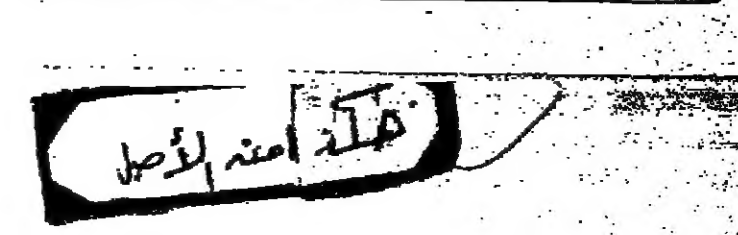
CORRECTION

In the notice published in the press on December 22, 1997 there was an error in sub-clause 1.A(1). The sub-clause should read:

1. A. The bidder must be a corporation, registered in Israel as required by the law, which fulfills all the following, this applying also to the business which it owns and manages:

(1) Has at least 12 months' proven experience in managing and operating automatic game centers in public places, prior to the date for starting to provide the services, according to this tender (May 1, 1998).

The other clauses in the tender are unchanged.



US announces air-to-ground missile sale to Israel

By ARLEN O'SULLIVAN

Israel is likely to purchase 45 AGM-142D air-to-ground missiles for \$41 million, the US Defense Department announced yesterday in Washington. The missiles are an improved version of the 3,000-pound Israeli Popeye missile and will be manufactured partially in Israel by Rafael.

The proposed sale also includes production start-up support for Precision Guided Systems US (PGSUS), which operates out of Orlando, Florida. PGSUS is a joint venture between Lockheed Martin Electronics and Missiles, a unit of Lockheed Martin Corp., and Rafael.

Rafael spokesman Noach Shachar said the deal was part of an arrangement to use US foreign military aid funds to purchase what is in effect an Israeli missile. The US gives Israel \$1.8 billion in military grants each year, but its use is conditional on some of it being spent in the US. The AGM-142D series is virtually identical with the Popeye, but the D version is considered more advanced.

Both US and Israeli warplanes are equipped with the standoff missile. The Pentagon said the proposed sale of the AGM-142D missiles would give Israel an increased capability to target, strike and destroy underground or reinforced bunkers.

The Pentagon said that the missiles would be sold to Israel without data links and the sale would

also include containers, spare and repair parts, publications and technical data, as well as logistic and technical support by US government employees and contractors.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East, the Pentagon said.

Implementation of the proposed sale would require the assignment

of about 12 to 15 US government workers or contractors in Israel for periodic visits for up to three years, the US Defense department said in a statement.

The home-grown, highly-accurate Popeye missile was based on the combat experience of the IAF and has been operational since the late 1980s. Israel has marketed the missile abroad and Rafael and Lockheed Martin have already cooperated to produce the AGM-142 for the US Air Force. The manufacturing of the missiles will be done at each company's factories here and in the US.

Agreements aimed at streamlining defense industries

In a move aimed at streamlining the defense industries, two agreements were signed yesterday for cooperation in sales of electronic warfare systems and in technical upgrades of F-16 fighter jets.

The first agreement defines principles for cooperation between the Defense Ministry and Elbit, the government-owned branch of Israel Aircraft Industries, and Elbit, a subsidiary of Elbit in the field of electronic warfare. The second agreement involved a cooperation arrangement between the IAI and Elbit Systems to upgrade F-16 jets.

Ministry officials are currently working on a draft agreement to cooperate in upgrading fighter jets and sell pilotless UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) and it is expected to be signed soon, a Defense Ministry spokesman said. The initiative behind the agreements comes from Defense Ministry director-general Ilan Bria, who wants to cut duplication and enhance local defense industries' potential for winning contracts abroad.

A.O.S.

Police claim Afuta killed Elimelech

By ELLI WOHLGELERINTER

Police said yesterday that Jerusalem hairdresser David Afuta shot and killed model Anat Elimelech three weeks ago before turning the gun on himself. The findings reversed an earlier police scenario.

Police said that shooting-trajectory analyses, and forensic and fingerprint tests confirmed that Afuta fired all three shots - one to the chest of Elimelech that killed her, one non-lethal wound to his shoulder, and then the fatal shot to his chest. "We are not 100 percent sure, but 99.9," said Yossi Portugal, head of investigations. Police earlier surmised that Elimelech had killed Afuta with two bullets before shooting herself. But in a cryptic briefing to reporters yesterday,

police said the investigation was still continuing regarding some unanswered questions. Foremost among these is how the murder weapon ended up alongside Elimelech's right hand on the floor.

Police said they found the two bodies lying on the floor of the apartment alongside a pull-out sofa, outstretched and parallel to each other, with Afuta's head by Elimelech's feet and his legs laying over her left arm.

One theory involves Afuta's two brothers, Yossi and Shimon, who climbed into the apartment from the roof, while a locksmith was working on picking the door lock. Sources said police are working on a theory that it was the brothers who put the gun next to Elimelech's hand. Channel 1 said the

brothers were being questioned.

Nir Elimelech, Anat's brother, said yesterday that after hearing the story from police, "We are not surprised, because we know that Anat would not shoot even a mosquito - she was too nice."

Police said they would recommend to state prosecutors that the case be closed, because the murderer himself was dead.

Afuta was a well known hairdresser who, until two weeks before his death, had been cutting the hair of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara.

Elimelech was a top model and the star of the Hyper-Kol supermarket chain ads. She had also made two children's videos and was to perform in the Festigal children's show this week.



Jobs for Ofakim

An unemployed man, Moshe Cohen (right), meets with Zion Lugasi (center) of the Electric Company workers' union, and Haim Hofer, personnel director for the Israel Electric Corp., as the company agrees to open up training courses which would create 50 jobs in unemployment-ridden Ofakim.

(Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Druse first non-Jew on general staff

By ARLEN O'SULLIVAN

A Druse general has been recommended to take over as the government's deputy coordinator of activities in the territories, defense sources confirmed yesterday.

When appointed, Brig.-Gen. Yusef Mishlav will be the first non-Jewish officer to serve in a senior general staff position in the IDF. There have been at least two other Druse generals, but they did not serve on the general staff.

Coordinator of government activities in the territories Maj.-Gen. Yaakov "Mandy" Or recommended Mishlav, 45, as his deputy a few months ago.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak recently approved the promotion in consultations with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Defense sources said Mishlav's appointment is to be officially announced soon.

As deputy, Mishlav is to be responsible for the border crossings between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and much of his work will revolve around the renovations being done at Karmi Crossing. He is also to work with the Jordanians and act as a liaison to international organizations.

Mishlav is currently the chief staff officer of the Southern Command. In the past he commanded a reserve division in the south. There is currently only an acting deputy coordinator for the territories, since Brig.-Gen. Baruch Spiegel stepped down four months ago.

Mishlav is from the village of Abu Sna'an and a 27-year, decorated career officer.

He has served in the past as deputy commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria and deputy commander of IDF forces in Lebanon. He is a graduate of the IDF's National Defense College and has an MA in political science from Haifa University.

Frozen amendment could free inmates

Dozens of suspects could be released after a decision by the Knesset Law Committee yesterday to freeze an amendment to the Detention Law pending a review of financing involved.

Finance Minister Yaskov Neeman was expected to meet the committee, which is chaired by Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), over the issue. If the amendment remains frozen by January 1, the law would go into effect and dozens of suspects held for six months or longer without having completed their trials, would be released.

Treasury accused of misleading public

MK Rafi Eini (Labor) who heads the Social Lobby in the Knesset convened an emergency meeting of the caucus yesterday inside the health workers' protest tent opposite the Knesset, and accused Finance Ministry officials of misleading the public to get the budget passed.

Eini rejected as "lies and falsehoods," statements by David

AT THE KNESSET

BY ELLI WOHLGELERINTER

Milgrom, the Finance Ministry official in charge of budget allocations, that NIS 650 million could be gained by making the health system more efficient.

New Jordan Valley Caucus formed

Amid all the budget talk of cuts yesterday, a new Knesset caucus was launched for fear of cuts of a different kind. The Caucus for the Jordan Valley and North Dead Sea Area Settlements is the initiative of Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi. The first meeting was attended by some 20 MKs from seven factions including Labor.

Adoption law could be postponed

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said

yesterday that a law regarding adoptions abroad could not go into effect as planned January 1 since no organization has volunteered to act as an adoption agency.

"There is no address for couples to turn to in Israel to help them with the adoptions," Zucker said.

He said this situation is "dangerous" since irresponsible bodies could still try to take over the field for profit motives, despite the legislative attempts to prevent this.

Mikvehs are safe

The Health Ministry yesterday denied there were any grounds for reports that mikvehs were dangerously polluted or a health hazard. The reports followed a meeting of the Knesset Public Complaints Committee on the issue this week.

Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri (Shas) said the ministry's chief engineer Shalom Goldberger said that the mikvehs posed no dangers and were in good condition.

PA calls finished census a success

By ELLI WOHLGELERINTER

The Palestinian Authority is calling its national census an overwhelming success, with a 99.9 percent response rate, despite its claim of some 100 cases of Israeli harassment against census-takers.

Daud Deek, assistant executive director for public affairs for the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, said the two-week census - which ended yesterday - has been "very successful, and the percentage of respondents I think has never been matched in any area of the world. This is an accurate percentage, it is documented, and not for the purposes of propaganda. We are very happy about it."

Deek said the cases of harassment include raiding the census offices in Palestinian areas, the

imposition of curfews in certain areas, detaining census-takers for a few hours, and questionnaire papers being torn up by soldiers.

Overall, he said, seven people were detained over the past two weeks for a few hours and then released.

On Monday, census supervisor Amjed Rimawi was arrested by IDF soldiers at a checkpoint near Ramallah. Deek said Rimawi was the first person connected to the census held overnight.

"We will publish the full report regarding this harassment, by day

and time, and who from our team was harassed. We are working on it now," Deek said.

The hardest areas to survey, Deek said, were the villages around Jerusalem, accounting for the 0.1 percent that did not participate in the census.

"There are about 200-300 people not counted, and we are dealing with them; we are persuading them to fill in the questionnaire," Deek said.

He refused to comment on any census-taking attempts inside Jerusalem city limits.

Last week, PA Minister of Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Husseini admitted that plans to conduct the census in eastern areas of Jerusalem were put on hold indefinitely, both because of interference by Israel and fear by Arab residents of the city over losing their Israeli identification cards.

Husseini said a survey in eastern Jerusalem will eventually be carried out, probably through an academic body, and that the census does not necessarily need to be conducted through PA institutions.

RABIN



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At the World Zionist Congress 'Unity, unity' but there is no unity

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

It was a ringing cry for unity that Labor Party leader Ehud Barak issued at yesterday's session of the Zionist Congress but there was precious little of it in evidence in the hall.

Differences over the future of the settlements in Judea and Samaria and over the standing of the Conservative and Reform movements in Israel led to jarring confrontations, with Meretz MK Yossi Sarid almost being shouted off the podium.

"We must bind the rifts that exist between us," Barak said in his call for unity in Israel and the Jewish world. "The history of the Jewish people has documented the terrible price of a struggle between brothers and of baseless hatred."

An hour earlier, Sarid had touched off a storm when he said "anybody who is engaged now in enlarging the settlements is committing an anti-Zionist act." Members of right-wing factions began shouting "You are not a Jew!" and "Go Home!"

As the day wore on, there appeared to be very different opinions among the participants in the Congress about just what constitutes unity, and whether it's even good for the Jews.

Barak told the delegates that the lesson to be learned from history is that the Jewish people must guard itself against internal divisions.

"The Jewish people are built like a mosaic," he said. "but we have the potential to break apart from within."

Barak said the Labor Party would vote against the conversion bill if it involved "arm-twisting" instead of compromise. "We will not allow a third of the Jewish people to be ripped out from inside us," he said.

Noting that there were representatives from various political organizations and religious streams at the Congress, Barak said: "Please don't let this [conversion bill] issue turn into a political issue."

Yeshiva University president Rabbi Prof. Norman Lamm said that the Reform and Conservative movements had been given too much weight in the Zionist movement. He warned that this might cause a rift at a time when the movement needed unity.

But actor and singer Theodore Bikel, representing American friends of Meretz, asked whether the talk about unity did not miss the point. "No doubt unity is something to be desired, to be striven for," he said. "But it cannot

be willed into being by mere declaration. For unity to come about, there must be respect for different viewpoints, different modes of living, different strains of thought."

"As a human being, as a Jew, and as a lifelong Zionist, I deplore disharmony and its manifestations. Yes, respect is a two-way street, and we will return respect for respect, tolerance for tolerance, acceptance for acceptance."

"We are either partners or we are not. If indeed we are, then it must be a partnership between fully recognized Jews in fact as well as in law."

While Congress participants geared up for voting on resolutions and on the remaining members of the Zionist Executive, slated for today's final day of discussions, the issue of unity, or the seeming lack of it, weighed heavily on many delegates' minds.

While Barak recalled the miracle Zionism performed in creating a state out of the ashes of the Holocaust, Hadassah President Marlene Post warned that "if this Congress comes out with a statement that says: 'We're all different, I don't respect you, you don't respect me,' then we have shot ourselves in the foot and we have destroyed the World Zionist movement."



Jubilee celebrations

British youths head toward the Western Wall yesterday for a ceremony marking the opening of Israel's jubilee celebrations. Some 500 British youths are here for an eight-day visit organized by Rabbi Benny Lau of Bnei Akiva in England. (Isaac Harari)

Masorti immigrants arrive from Argentina

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Thirteen Argentinean Jewish families arrive here this morning as part of a new plan for bringing immigrants to Israel who are sponsored by the Jewish Agency and the Conservative (Masorti) Movement. The program is part of the Agency's Aliya 2,000 effort and is unique in that the immigrants will be directly absorbed in the Kiryat Bialik community, where a Masorti community already exists.

The Kiryat Bialik Municipality is also sponsoring the project.

The idea behind the effort is to try to bring groups of families who are part of the Conservative community in their home countries to places in Israel where a Masorti community already exists and can help absorb them.

As part of the project, an Israeli delegation left for Argentina a few weeks ago to encourage families to participate. Among those who traveled to Argentina was Kiryat Bialik

Mayor Danny Jacques, the spiritual leader of the Kiryat Bialik community. Rabbi Mauricio Balter, who immigrated himself recently from Argentina, and Jewish Agency Aliya Department emissaries.

The Israeli delegation provided the potential immigrants with information about Kiryat Bialik, including material on education, employment and cultural offerings.

As a result of the short visit, some 30 families decided to make aliya, with the first group of 13

families, including 30 children, arriving this morning.

The newcomers are to be taken initially to the Kiryat Yam absorption center, where they will study Hebrew and explore job possibilities. Members of the local Masorti congregation will adopt them and try to ease their initial absorption. A Jewish Agency spokesman said the Masorti movement officials and the Jewish Agency hope to expand the program to include other communities here.

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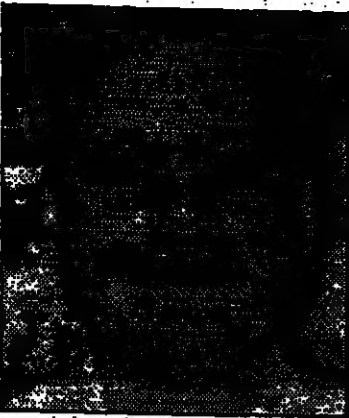
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Carlos 'the Jackal' gets life sentence



Arch-terrorist Carlos (AP)

PARIS (Reuters) — A Paris court yesterday sentenced guerrilla mastermind Carlos "the Jackal" to life in prison for killing two French secret agents and a Lebanese fellow revolutionary in 1975.

The 48-year-old Venezuelan revolutionary, blamed for more than 80 deaths and hundreds of injuries during his pro-Palestinian struggle in the 1970s and 1980s, was found guilty of murder with aggravating circumstances.

Carlos shouted "Long live the revolution" when the verdict was read yesterday and added something else which was not heard distinctly.

One journalist suggested the Marxist gunman may have added "Allah Akbar" (God is Great) in Arabic but others present disputed this.

Carlos will appeal the life sentence passed on him, his lawyer said.

"I told Carlos last night to file the appeal as soon as he returned to Fresnes prison," lawyer Isabelle Coutant-Peyre said.

"If he is unable to do so, we will file the appeal on Friday at the law courts when he is received by an investigating magistrate handling another case," she said.

She said she gave her advice to her client as he was led away, after



Lawyer Isabelle Coutant-Peyre speaks to the press after a French court sentenced her client Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, also known as Carlos 'the Jackal,' to life in prison yesterday. (AP)

giving a clenched-fist salute and shouting "long live the revolution" when the sentence was read. Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, was captured in Sudan in 1994 after two decades on the run and smuggled to France in a sack.

He was retried for the three killings after receiving a life sentence in absentia five years ago.

Carlos, once the swaggering star of international urban guerrillas, was charged with killing agents of the DST counter espionage organization agents Jean Donatini and Raymond Dous on June 27, 1975.

In an apartment on rue Toulouier in Paris's Latin Quarter, Michel Moukharbel, a Lebanese man known to Carlos as a fellow Palestinian sympathizer, also was killed in the shooting, while a third DST agent was seriously

wounded. Prosecutors said Carlos shot the four men, none of whom was armed, after concluding that Moukharbel informed him and then led the agents to him.

The jury deliberated on the sentence for nearly three hours after a final, sometimes incoherent statement by Carlos to the court.

"You can sentence me to life imprisonment, it does not frighten me," he said at one point in his almost four-hour statement.

Playing to a handful of "fans" among the spectators, he asked: "Do you hear me well?" When they shouted back "No," he asked for another microphone.

Carlos described the trial against him as "rotten," but skirted the issue of whether he was guilty of the shootings.

"I don't confirm or deny any-

thing. I'm not an informer," he said.

He praised the Palestinian cause and denounced Israel as "the number one terrorist state in history."

"When one wages war for 30 years, there is a lot of blood spilled — mine and others. But we never killed anyone for money but for a cause — the liberation of Palestine," he said.

Prosecutor Gino Necchi argued on Monday that the evidence fully supported a guilty verdict and urged the jury to send Carlos to prison for the rest of his life.

In his address, Carlos boasted that his exploits on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine had brought "hundreds of millions of dollars" to the Palestinian resistance.

He denounced "world Zionism" as "the enemy" which would bring

about "the McDonaldization of humanity."

Police say three witnesses described Carlos's role in the shootings to them within hours of the event, although none of the three could be found for the trial.

The prosecution said Carlos boasted of the killings in letters to several friends, in a newspaper interview, in a telephone conversation with an associate who later wrote about their chat in a book and in conversations with diplomats seized during his most daring escape — the kidnapping of 11 oil ministers in Vienna later in 1975.

But his lawyer Olivier Maudrut questioned why the witnesses could not now be found and why only a photograph was displayed of a key letter said to be in Carlos's hand.

In that letter, prosecutors said, he wrote of sending Moukharbel "to a better world" for having betrayed him.

"A person cannot be condemned to life in prison based on a photocopy," Maudrut said.

At times angry and brimming with hate, at other times cracking jokes and poking fun at himself, Carlos took an active role in his own defense during the eight-day trial, frequently jumping to his feet with a sarcastic remark or to question a witness in his heavily Spanish-accented French.

His trial is likely to be only the first step on a long judicial path.

French anti-terrorist magistrate Jean-Louis Brugiere is investigating him for three Paris bombings which killed five people in 1974 and 1982, a 1983 bombing which killed five in Marseille's train station and two bomb attacks on French trains in which seven people died in 1982 and 1983.

He is also wanted in Germany for the bombing of Berlin's French cultural center and in Austria for the 1975 kidnapping of the 11 OPEC oil ministers in Vienna.

45 killed in Mexico massacre

By TRINA KLEIST

ACTEAL, Mexico (AP) — The 15-year-old boy was sitting on a bench in the clappedboard church, praying for an end to the civil war that has convulsed this subsistence farming area for four years.

Gunshots rang out, and Juan Vazquez Luna ran outside. Seventy men were marching down dirt paths, firing with AK-47s at anyone who moved. Juan followed hundreds of people scrambling down the mountain toward the river.

Women hauled babies in shawls. Men carried toddlers by the waist. People tripped on the undergrowth, making their way down the hill to what they thought would be safety. But the gunmen followed them down, shooting. Soon, the packed earth along the river was covered in blood.

Juan's mother and father and four of his sisters were dead.

Three other siblings were wounded.

"When they heard children crying, they shot them," said Javier Perez Guzman, a 20-year-old coffee farmer.

In all, 45 people were killed and 25 were wounded Monday in the massacre at Acteal. It was the deadliest attack since rebels of the Zapatista National Liberation Army rose up in January 1994 to demand rights for Indians. Before a ceasefire took hold two weeks later, 145 people had died in the uprising.

"They didn't respect anyone. Not old people. Not children."

Nobody," said Ernesto Mendez Paciencia, an 18-year-old coffee farmer whose two brothers, 8 and 11, were killed.

Survivors said they recognized some of the gunmen as members of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, whose members have been fighting with rebel sympathizers in the area for months. At least 30 people — more than 20 of them from the PRI — had been killed in previous violence in the area the past seven months.

Survivors said some of the gunmen wore state police uniforms, although insignias had been removed. For months, rebels have accused state officials of cooperating with or forming paramilitary groups to attack Zapatista supporters. The government denies the accusations.

In a nationally broadcast address Tuesday, President Ernesto Zedillo called the massacre "an absurd criminal act."

"There is no cause, no circumstance, that could justify this action," he said.

Zedillo directed the federal attorney general and the national human rights commission to investigate.

State and federal government reports about suspects conflicted, with the state government announcing four arrests late Tuesday and the federal attorney general saying only that three people were being questioned.

Woody Allen marries Mia Farrow's adopted daughter

VENICE (Reuters) — Filmmaker Woody Allen married Soon-Yi Previn, adopted daughter of his former lover Mia Farrow, in Venice on Tuesday. The newly-

city later yesterday, hotel staff said. Venice airport officials said the couple were expected to board a private flight to Paris at around 1500 GMT yesterday. It was not

immediately known whether they were to board a flight there for the U.S.

Allen and actress Farrow ended their decade-long relationship in 1992 after she found nude photographs of Soon-Yi, her Korean-born adopted daughter, in Allen's apartment. The split sparked a

widely-publicized battle over the custody of their two children.

Leslee Dart, Allen's spokeswoman, said in a statement that Allen and Previn had decided six years ago to get married in Venice, a city she called "very meaningful to them."

After the ceremony attended by three other people, a city hall representative gave the newlyweds a glass vase depicting Venice's 18th century La Fenice opera house, the mayor said. Allen, a frequent visitor to Venice, started a fundraising campaign for La Fenice, shortly after it was gutted by fire in January 1996.



Woody Allen (Reuters)

Nichols avoids murder conviction

Found guilty of conspiracy, involuntary manslaughter in Oklahoma City bombing

By SANDY SHORE

DENVER (AP) — Jurors who decided Terry Nichols shares the blame for the Oklahoma City bombing but is no murderer now must determine if he will pay with his life for the deadliest act of homegrown terrorism in the United States.

To the wrath and anguish of bombing victims and relatives of the dead, jurors on Tuesday refused to convict Nichols of murder, instead finding him guilty of involuntary manslaughter and of conspiring with Timothy McVeigh.

The conspiracy conviction carries the death penalty. The sentencing phase is scheduled to begin Monday.

Survivors and victims' relatives cried out for a harsher verdict as they learned that only McVeigh will be branded a murderer for killing 168 people in an act that ripped apart the nation's sense of security. Nichols, portrayed as a willing participant in McVeigh's plot to avenge the government's 1993 raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, was actually acquitted of two charges.

"How dare that jury think that 168 deaths is involuntary manslaughter?" asked Darlene Welch, whose 4-year-old niece was killed in the blast.

"What I heard in the courtroom today is a disgrace," said Jamie Coverdale, who lost two grand-

sons. "It's a disgrace to all Americans." US District Judge Richard Matsch scheduled a hearing yesterday to hear defense arguments seeking to throw out the verdict and block the possibility of a death sentence. The defense said there is an inherent conflict in the convictions of involuntary manslaughter and conspiracy.

Nichols frowned as the verdicts were read. Two jurors wept softly. Turning to spectators, including many victims' relatives who were sobbing, Matsch said: "These folks don't have to answer to anybody for their decision."

Nichols, 42, was convicted of conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction and eight counts of involuntary manslaughter for the eight federal agents killed in the blast. He was acquitted of using a weapon of mass destruction and of destruction by explosive.

The split verdict came six months after McVeigh was convicted and sentenced to death on 11 identical counts. His appeal is pending. Unlike McVeigh's jury, jurors for Nichols were allowed to consider lesser charges if they were unable to find premeditation in the eight first-degree murder charges.

Involuntary manslaughter, which alone carries no more than six years behind bars, was defined as a slaying "without malice... a lawful act done without due caution, which might produce death."

Jurors deliberated 41 hours over

six days before concluding that the government case built on fertilizer receipts, phone records and Ryder truck sightings was not enough to declare Nichols a mass murderer.

He was safe in his Kansas house more than 300 kilometers away from Oklahoma City at the time of the blast — even prosecutors conceded that point.

His lawyers called him a family man who was "building a life, not a bomb." But prosecutors said McVeigh and Nichols worked side by side to build the 1,800-kilogram fuel-and-fertilizer bomb that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995, in retaliation for the FBI siege near Waco exactly two years earlier.

While McVeigh's trial drew heavily on survivors describing the ordeal, the streamlined case against Nichols instead detailed the low-budget motels, calling card communications and coded letters that linked the two men in the seven months before the blast.

World Bank lends South Korea \$3b.

By CARL HARTMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — South Korea, struggling to meet demands of creditors in the next week, has a new \$3 billion loan from the World Bank and a promise of more early next year.

"We regard this loan as a symbol of Korea's commitment to structural reforms that in time will help restore the health of a fundamentally sound economy," World Bank President James Wolfensohn said in announcing the latest international financial aid to the Asian nation.

The loan was part of a \$57b. package, including \$5b. from the US government, put together by the International Monetary Fund, the bank's sister organization.

Rescue packages in recent months, for Indonesia and Thailand, as well as South Korea, have topped \$100b.

Last week the IMF predicted that the US economy would grow only 2.4 percent next year, not the 3.8 percent predicted earlier, in part because of the Asian financial cri-

sis. "We are hopeful that we are beginning to see the turnaround today," said Danny Leipziger, who heads the bank's office dealing with the regulation of banks and with private enterprise. "And if everyone acts responsibly, I think the situation can be turned around."

Leipziger said it would take additional time to work on the additional \$7b. the bank has said it will make available to South Korea if necessary. The question is whether more money would be lent early or later in the first quarter of 1998, he added.

The bank provided the money with unusual speed to stave off loan defaults that could affect commerce worldwide. Normally, major World Bank loans take as long as a year to negotiate.

Aides to South Korean President-elect Kim Dae-jung, who will take office in February, had said the immediate problem was \$15b. in short-term loans that fall due before the end of the year, and another billion due in January.

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Europe rediscovers religion

Be it imported from afar, recovered from old or renewed in a contemporary idiom, Europe is suddenly defying its contemporary image as the planet's most Godless quarter.

By CHARLES TRUEHEART

VALENCIA, Spain — At the end of winter every year, this corner of Europe is thronged for four days and nights of singing, dancing and firecracker-popping that climax in a fiery exorcism. The phenomenon — not Catholicism, exactly, but the distinctly local religion of the *fallas* — dates back to the Middle Ages but has never been so popular or elaborate as in the last couple of decades.

Priestless and only barely sacred, this faith is rooted in more than 400 "associations" that gather in neighborhood clubhouses — usually little more than a clutch of card tables in a local tavern.

Throughout the year, hundreds of ornate and outrageous 75-foot (23 m.) tall papier-mache monuments, the *fallas*, are designed and built at huge time and expense, borne solely by offerings from the people. Then, on the appointed night, the *fallas* are set to the torch in massive bonfires of release and redemption.

As an indication of a community of faith, measured in participation, financial support, spirituality, tradition and sacred rite, a real church in Europe could do no better, and seldom does as well, as the *fallas*.

"This is what I identify with, this is where my faith is," said Celestino Toledo, a welder in the *fallas* club in the Valencia suburb of Masanasa. "If I weren't doing this, I wouldn't be doing anything religious at all."

Valencia's feast of the *fallas*, held in mid-March every year, is among a host of new ways Europeans are channeling the spiritual energy that science and state and a loss of religious memory have been unable to extinguish.

Later-century Europe can easily be called the most Godless quarter on earth. That, in any case, has been the prevailing wisdom. But today, following the rest of the world, Europe is effervescent with new religiosity, be it imported from afar, recovered from old or renewed in a contemporary idiom.

More than half of Europe's citizens still profess to be Catholics, and

nearly a third identify themselves as Protestants. Yet few attend church regularly — a century-old trend whose pace quickened in the social upheavals of the 1960s. The most obvious sign and most profound consequence has been the tumble to near extinction of the traditional parish church and the geographically based congregation that sustained it.

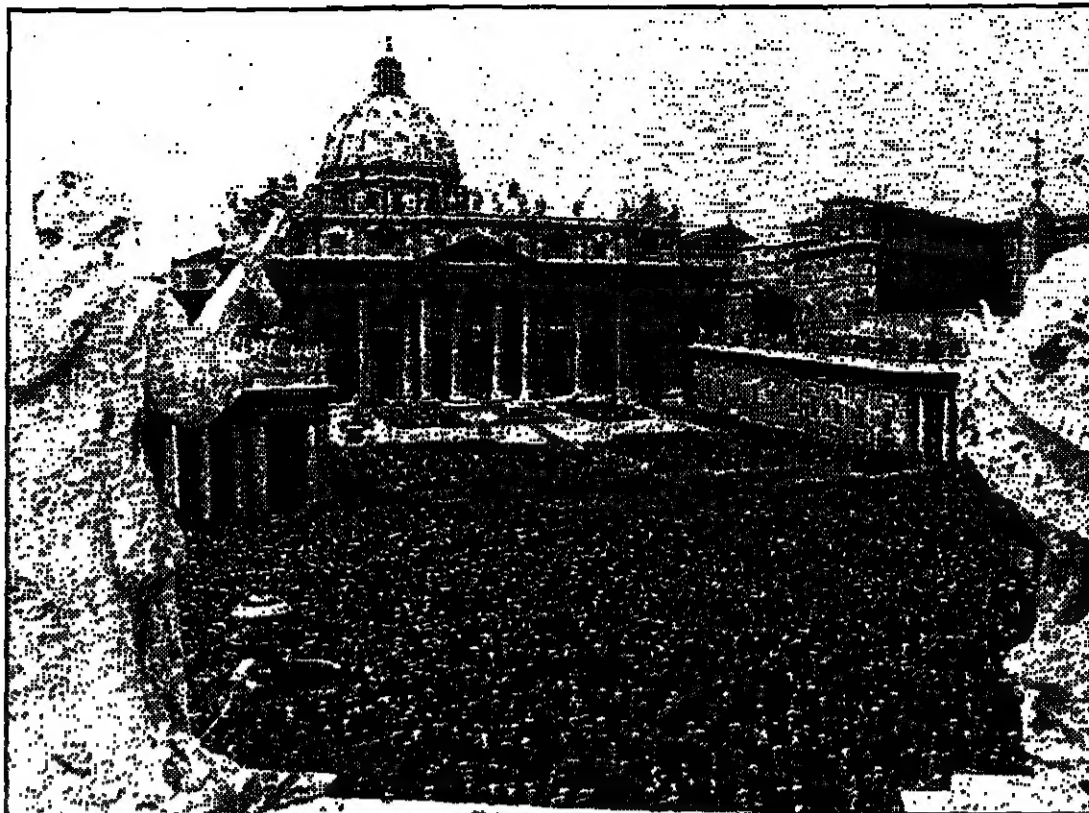
"Many Europeans have ceased to belong to their religious institutions in any meaningful sense, but they have not abandoned — so far — many of their deep-seated religious motivations," said Grace Davie, a sociologist of religion at the University of Exeter in England.

No one is certain just how large the new movements are; much of the religious ferment is happening on the margins of established religions. But signs of it can be found throughout the continent.

The Spaniards are creating a national patchwork of local, Christian-inspired but overtly secular religions. The French are sampling Buddhism and massing on pilgrimages to shrines of obscure saints. The Italians are returning to long-buried Catholic forms and ideals in communities of renewal. The British are modernizing their parish life and feeding a hunger for Bible study. The Swedes are reclaiming their church from the clutches of their state. The Germans are struggling to absorb and convert a virtually de-Christianized East German population. And all Europeans are learning to live with the growing presence of Islam.

For a quarter-century, Europe has welcomed Protestant evangelism imported or copied from North America. Baptists, Methodists, Assemblies of God, Jehovah's Witnesses, even Episcopalians, are spreading their message with slow but growing success.

Europe no less than the United States has cottoned to New Age spirituality. Hinduism, Transcendental Meditation, the Unification Church, Krishna Consciousness, occultism, faith healing, The Church of Scientology is locked in struggle with the German government to enhance its



The Vatican: Europeans are flocking to religion.

tax status as a certified religion. Cults also have made a mark in Europe, most recently with the self-immolation of members of the Order of the Solar Temple.

Religious books, on Buddhism and Jesus alike, are best-sellers. This season's French religious best-seller is the ultimate spiritual cafeteria line: The two-volume, 2,469-page, eight-pound, \$120 *Encyclopedia of World Religions*. True religious pluralism is a new fact of life on a continent long dominated by two major Christian churches. Its centuries of religious wars and the Holocaust are being shaken anew by the contemporary-style Protestant church in a suburb of Birmingham, England, devoted a recent Sunday message to the pitfalls of easy belief — and in so doing suggested what the old

Much of a new generation is coming of age with little or no religion as a point of cultural and personal reference. The post-World War II generation could still remember a tradition; but since they didn't pass it on, their children are religious blank slates.

For some this is an opportunity. The young "know nothing of religion, so they have no prejudices against it," observed Neil Blough, a Mennonite church historian in a Paris suburb. "Some of them even think Jesus and God are American inventions." Such are the spiritual temptations for the young that Nick Cuthbert, founding pastor of a contemporary-style Protestant church in a suburb of Birmingham, England, devoted a recent Sunday message to the pitfalls of easy belief — and in so doing suggested what the old

churches, even the ones trying to modernize, are up against in today's thriving European religious marketplace. He named Outta boards, The X-Files, witchcraft, levitation, divination, fortune-telling, palmistry and astrology.

Many young people exhibit a phenomenon familiar to American sociologists of contemporary religion: "zapping" among religions, surfing for faiths that appeal to them. A French term for it is *bricolage*, loosely translated as do-it-yourself. "Religion, like so many other things, has entered the world of options, lifestyles and preferences," Davie said.

"We believe, but we don't practice," said Vicente Camon, an electrician, one evening at his local *fallas* clubhouse in Valencia.

Across the table, Juan Costa, a

mason, put it differently. "We are Catholics, but we are not believers," he said. "Each one of us takes Catholicism at his own speed and approach...My parents taught me about God, but the ideas didn't conform to reality, so in the course of my life I created my own." Although regular churchgoing is down steeply in Europe, attendance at major religious events — notably during the Christmas season — is up.

Increasingly, faith is being expressed not in ordinary habit but in extraordinary acts of participation like the *fallas*.

The phenomenon is repeated across Spain and Portugal, and across the European continent at local saints' festivals and quasi-religious rituals. The most ancient form of extraordinary religious ritual, the pilgrimage, is enjoying a startling new life. *Pilgrim* magazine in France circulates to 340,000 customers every week.

Take the shrine of St. Therese of the Christ Child in the French town of Lisieux. A Carmelite nun who died of tuberculosis 100 years ago at the age of 24, St. Therese left behind letters and other writings and an example of humility and piety that have earned her a place of extraordinary popularity among even disengaged Catholics, and intellectual respect among priests and theologians.

The Basilica of Lisieux, said the Rev. Raymond Zambelli, its rector, has become "an oasis, an island, a place to stop and catch your breath" — and a destination for nearly two million pilgrims every year.

Perhaps the most impressive recent sign of what French sociologist Daniele Hervieu-Leger describes as a burgeoning "pilgrim sensibility" was Pope John Paul II's global youth rally on the Longchamp racetrack in Paris last August. For weeks before, the French media reported disappointing advance numbers for the World Youth Days festival. France's rock-bottom church attendance, undisciplined sexual and social mores and century-long officially secular government, presaged a huge embarrassment to the 77-year-old pope.

But as it turned out, more than a million young people from across the continent, well over half from France, turned up for the pope's address at an outdoor event that struck many observers as a Christian Woodstock, a merger of a rock concert and a worship service. It left the French Catholic church marveling and wondering how to turn that latent religiosity into deeper faith or even regular practice.

The problem for the pope — and the reality of the religious scene across Catholic Europe — is that the young people who came to Longchamp "never set foot in church," said Hervieu-Leger. For her, the event suggested opportunities for a renewed Catholicism if it recognizes the late-20th century appeal of the mass pilgrimage.

"It is everything parish life is not: mobile rather than stable, based on the individual rather than the territory of a parish, voluntary rather than obligatory, extraordinary rather than ordinary," Hervieu-Leger said. It is also "modular," she said — those who come feel the freedom to pick and choose, to express their admiration for the pope and the Catholic tradition while rejecting the church's teachings on contraception and abortion.

If the million-plus who flocked to Longchamp to see the pope were at least nominally religious actors, those who flocked and continue to flock to the edges of the tunnel where Princess Diana died in Paris August 31 are also pilgrims of a vaguely spiritual kind, praying, crying and laying flowers at an improvised shrine. She was "an archetype, a kind of modern saint," said Frederic Lenot, a French scholar of religion.

Jacques Duquesne, whose two recent books retelling the life of Jesus have been runaway best-sellers in France, said this youthful religiosity "is not a profound faith." He said, "The young look for occasions to get together. It's fun. Let's go." The church to them is like Amnesty International. It's very good on human rights, but when it interferes in your personal life, they don't want it." *The Washington Post*

Slovenia's modest history-maker

By MARIA NOVAK

LJUBLJANA — Milan Kucan may be the one leader to emerge from the bloody breakup of Yugoslavia with real credit.

As the remainder of the ex-communist federation struggles to pick up the pieces after years of bloodshed, the Slovenian president has acquired the reassuring familiarity of "old money" for his citizens, but still has regrets.

"If I could change anything in the past, I would have tried to find more support in those republics of the former Yugoslavia that were facing the most cruel future, but did not understand what Slovenia wanted or that what we wanted was in their interest," he said in an interview.

It was Slovenia's move toward secession in 1990 and 1991 that

provided the catalyst for the cascade of conflicts that tore Yugoslavia apart. And it was Kucan who helped liberalize the political and economic system that helped make a breakup increasingly inevitable.

"Slovenia was ready for democracy," he said. "It was focusing on human rights and insisting on the principle of national equality, but because of this, it faced political pressure that threatened violence."

Kucan says the idea of breaking away from communist Yugoslavia began to take shape in his mind about 10 years ago, and his regret is that the thinking behind it alienated or unnerved the rest of the onetime federation instead of spurring the same new beginning.

He had been Communist Party chief in the small but compara-

tively prosperous republic of two million people for around a year.

The unwillingness of the communist leadership in Belgrade to carry out reforms to end a severe economic and political crisis gradually convinced him that change was not possible within Yugoslavia.

First as Communist Party leader and then as president of Yugoslav Slovenia from 1990, Kucan encouraged small-scale private enterprise and allowed an unofficial political opposition.

He resisted pressure from the Yugoslav federal authorities to crack down on the press, instead holding free elections in April 1990 in which a center-right coalition campaigning for independence defeated the communists.

Voters again backed secession

in a referendum in December; on June 25, 1991, Slovenia and neighboring Croatia declared independence.

Federal troops were sent into Slovenia and a 10-day war ensued, which ended in a ceasefire. Kucan kept his nerve, famously declaring at the height of the crisis: "The broken jug ... cannot be put together again."

Now, having won a second and final term as president in November with 55.6 percent of the vote, he looks back modestly on the role he played in postwar European history.

"The breakup was not easy, but it was reasonably quick," says the softly-spoken 56-year-old. "Every nation has some historic opportunities. We used ours well. There was a combination of luck and wisdom that made it possible."

"My biggest success is this democratic, pressure-free election and the fact that we managed to bring Slovenia out of the Yugoslav crisis relatively safely."

Kucan remains frustrated by what he sees as the international community's insistence on seeing the Bosnian conflict as a civil war. In his eyes, it began as a Serbian-led war of aggression.

"At the start, the war was led from Belgrade with the goal of breaking up the country," he says. Although peace of sorts has returned to Bosnia, Kucan does not appear particularly optimistic about the outlook.

"The situation in Bosnia is so fragile that one cannot exclude the possibility of war returning," he says.

The contrast with Slovenia could not be more stark.

Since independence, it has become a stable, multiparty democracy. It is the wealthiest of Europe's former communist countries, and one of only five which are likely to join the European Union in its next wave of enlargement, the main goal of Kucan's remaining time in office.

"People see me as a guarantee that things will end peacefully even [though] they seem the most risky," he said. "I'm like old money to them... Without any dramatic changes, Slovenia should be able to join the EU by the end of my mandate."

The main criticism leveled at Kucan by Western economists is that he could have been more vigorous in pressing for free-market economic reforms.

"It is impossible to conduct the necessary reforms without hurting

anyone," Kucan says. Slovenia still has to reform its pension, labor, tax and financial systems to reduce the burden on the state and extend the process of economic liberalization.

Kucan says reform will be easier if the government can somehow capture the so-called "gray," semi-official part of the economy which is beyond the reach of the taxman and is not included in official economic statistics.

The president estimates that this shadow economy may be as much as 50 percent of official gross domestic product.

"If tax reforms manage to bring the gray economy into the system of taxation, legalizing gray labor, then you get a more optimistic picture of our future economic potential," he says. (Reuters)

AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

On Saturday night, stones were thrown at Nahum and Yael Shahori's car on the Beit Jibrin-Gush Etzion road, in the Hebron area. The car overturned.

Nahum, who is a liaison officer to the Palestinian Police in Hebron, is hospitalized at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem. The following night, shots were fired at an army post in the area. Security officials fear this is just the beginning.

Natshie says that of the 10,000 people who lived in the Hebron casbah before the Six-Day War, only 2,000 remain. The rest, he says, caved in to the threats of the settlers and left.

Today, he is having difficulty getting permits to build 122 homes so that some of the original residents can return.

Another problem is the sewage system. The settlers near the Avraham Avinu Synagogue disconnected a major sewage tunnel 1.2 meters in diameter from the main system, for fear that bombs could be planted inside.

Instead, they laid a bypass pipe that is only 70 cm. wide. The wide sewage tunnel now serves only the Jewish families; the pipe serves the rest of the city. So it's no wonder that in the winter, the streets are flooded with rainwater mixed with sewage. It's no wonder that there's frustration. Natshie is doing his best.

But none of this seems to bother Arafat. He's going to build his palace. And a palace it will be, with a reception hall, luxurious living quarters, a fountain out front, a pool in the back, and a helipad just to the north. For this he will find money.

An American accent

On Tuesday night, US President Bill Clinton lit a Hanukkah candle at

the White House. Pupils from a Jewish school in Washington, DC sang "Maot Tzur." The White House chefs served what looked sort of like sufganiyot, sort of like doughnuts. Another event that demonstrates the cooling of US-Israeli relations.

In 32 other capitals, the candle-lighting ceremonies were held in the presence of Israeli diplomats and the heads of the local Jewish community. In the Vatican, the Israeli ambassador spoke.

But in Washington, the capital of our great friend, the ambassador was not invited, nor was his No. 2. Phooey on the embassy.

Petitions to the White House were in vain. Pleas to National Security Adviser Sandy Berger to invite Israel's official representatives were in vain. It was only because of the intervention of Merv Adelson, a personal friend of the president's, and others involved in the Jubilee Celebrations Committee, that Clinton even agreed to announce at the ceremony that it marked the opening of the State of Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The chill winds blowing from Washington toward Jerusalem seem especially blatant when you consider the view the Clintons have from the porch of their White House living quarters. A huge hanukkah standing on the main road on the bank of the Potomac, with the Washington Monument in the background, casts a shadow over the big White House Christmas tree, which is surrounded by the 50 smaller Christmas trees, one from every state.

And in the exclusive mall at 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, only two blocks from the White House, which houses the Clintons' favorite restaurant, Hanukkah songs alternate with Christmas carols over the sound system, and "Jerusalem of Gold" is played, along with "Jingle Bells." On radio and TV broadcasts,

the traditional "Merry Christmas" has been replaced with the neutral "Season's Greetings," or "Happy Holidays," so as not to offend Jews in the audience.

The clear goodwill in the US towards Jews and Israel makes one wonder why our diplomats are so out of the loop they can't get invited to a Jewish event at the White House, even when they beg. Not that one ambassador or chief of mission can make or break the two countries' relationship, but it's unfortunate that they can't use this goodwill to our advantage, particularly at this time.

The security memorandum After the mutual recriminations between the political echelons and the IDF brass, officers from the IDF Planning Branch sat down with men from the GSS to review the draft security agreement, in preparation for further discussions with the Americans and the Palestinians.

Sources in Jerusalem explain that basically, Israeli and Palestinian security officials met for a general discussion on a security agreement. The Israelis made suggestions. The Palestinians made suggestions. The local CIA representative wrote up a draft. No one signed anything. No one committed to anything.

The Palestinians said that Israel could forget about the PA extradition wanted terrorists, and suddenly made the principle of reciprocity holy: "You want us to take weapons away from Hamas, then take the weapons away from your extremists. You want us to fight against the terrorist infrastructure, then let's see you prevent violence by Jews. You want us to stop 'revolving-door' justice, then don't you grant any pardons. You want us to remove Palestinian Police officers with 'blood on their hands,' then you do the same."



A model of one of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's planned palaces, complete with a reception hall, luxurious living quarters, a fountain, a pool and a helipad.

The government blames the army, Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Mordechai vehemently criticized the document. The army officers responded that the whole memorandum was a political document that professional soldiers should not be dealing with.

During the four years that the Likud was in the opposition, its leaders yelled that the government was "politicizing" the army by involving it in the discussions with the Palestinians. Since this government was formed in June 1996, it has not managed to put together a political staff that could deal properly with the diplomatic-political questions resulting from the negotiations with

Arafat. So it threw the burden back on the defense establishment.

And yet, during the four years of the Labor-Meretz government, the army brass never complained that they were being forced to deal with political issues. What suddenly changed?

Perhaps the answer lies with the CIA representative, who did well from this whole encounter. He understood the nuances, took all the ideas that he knew would pass with the Palestinians, and prepared the draft agreement that isn't really an agreement, but that is now being argued over so publicly. Who knows what will happen at the next stage; perhaps the CIA method will

find favor with the administration, and it will start putting on the table its own suggestions during various other discussions, including important ones, like those relating to further redeployments or final-status issues.

A recent loser, however, seems to be Foreign Minister David Levy. When Levy, who was involved in developing policy for the peace talks since his meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) in New York, decided not to accompany Netanyahu to Paris and to refrain from taking the helicopter tour of the territories, he did so believing he

could convince the Americans that, unlike the prime minister, he could be taken for his word. And perhaps he did convince them.

The question is, does the administration prefer a word of honor or a position of power and influence?

The risk for Levy is that during future visits of administration officials, they will have the most serious discussions with those critical of the peace process. It should be noted that Martin Indyk, during his recent visit here, seemed to prefer Sharon's farm in the Negev over a visit to Levy's home in Beit She'an. It was no coincidence.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or note.

Landmark bibliography

HEBREW MANUSCRIPTS AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY: A Description and Introduction by Stefan C. Reif. Cambridge University Press, xx + 626 pp. Price not stated.

By Gabriel Sivan

Primarily intended for specialists in Judaica, this catalogue of 1,066 manuscripts (No. 52 in the Cambridge Oriental Publications series) is a major landmark in Hebrew bibliography. Thanks to the resources of our computer age, it now supersedes earlier listings by Solomon Schiller-Szinessy (1876), Herbert Loewe (1927), and Jacob Leven.

As director of Genizah Research and head of Cambridge University Library's Oriental Division, Stefan Reif has become an internationally renowned scholar. He spent the 1996-97 academic year here as a visiting professor at the Hebrew University and also appeared on television.

His introduction, "Hebrew and Hebraists at Cambridge," surveys the role of learned Christians (and the occasional Jewish apostate such as John Immanuel Tremellius) who, from the 16th century onward, not only taught Hebrew but also enriched their college libraries with Hebrew books. Like their Harvard brethren in New England, many Cambridge men were zealous rabbinical scholars. Ralph Cudworth, master of Clare and regius professor of Hebrew, penned verse in the holy tongue glorifying Charles I, Richard Cromwell, and finally Charles II as well.

According to Reif, "the academic self-indulgence which led scholars to extol their leaders in a language which they [the leaders] could not read was also to be found among preachers desirous of impressing their congregations with the sheer incomprehensibility of their sermons. The Westminster Assembly of 1644 attempted to strike a blow for more democratic religious education by prohibiting the use of Hebrew in the pulpit, but there is evidence to suggest that churchgoers felt cheated if homilies were delivered in a language wholly within their intellectual grasp." Exchanging the Catholic mystique of Latin for the Protestant one of Hebrew was evidently a by-product of the Reformation.

Although Isaac Abendana, a brother of the Sephardi *haham*, earned a modest livelihood through private tutoring and translating at Cambridge (1663-1675), a "religious test" maintained there over the next 200 years barred a professing Jew from any university teaching post. That form of discrimination ended when Solomon Schiller-Szinessy, in practice a traditional Jew but politically a radical (he had fought in the 1848 Hungarian revolution under Kossuth), was appointed first lecturer (1866) and then reader (1875) in talmudic

and rabbinic literature. Like Oxford, however, Cambridge made sure that the regius professorship of Hebrew kept its ties with the Church of England.

Schiller-Szinessy encouraged the university librarians to purchase valuable manuscripts from Jewish booksellers in Central Europe. Thanks to his specialist knowledge, two volumes were also printed, listing and describing 97 of the Hebrew manuscripts in the university's possession (1876); about 400 of the remaining manuscript works had been catalogued by hand prior to his death in 1890, but this comprehensive guide remained unpublished. His work was continued by Solomon Schechter, who made Cambridge a focus of



Prof. Solomon Schechter

scholarly interest and research, being responsible for the acquisition of the Cairo Genizah's treasures in 1897.

The next systematic attempt to catalogue the growing manuscript collection was made by Herbert Loewe (the grandson of Sir Moses Montefiore's learned secretary and interpreter), whose preface to a *Handlist of Hebrew and Samaritan Manuscripts in the Library of the University of Cambridge* (1927) is reproduced on pp. 37-44. After his retirement as keeper of the Department of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts at the British Museum in 1956, Jacob Leven undertook the preparation of a

revised catalogue which, after 14 years (in 1973), was still incomplete.

That task, finally entrusted to the Genizah Research Unit's director, Stefan Reif, has now been discharged with the publication of this volume in 1997.

HIS CATALOGUE, to which numerous indexes are appended, tells us everything we may wish to know about a given manuscript: its catalogue number and provenance; its size, form, and condition; the works included and their author(s); details of any illuminated pages or colophons; when it was written and the scribe's name; who once owned the manuscript; and when and from whom it was acquired.

These Hebrew MSS cover a vast range of subjects, from the Bible, Talmud, and liturgy to anthologies of verse, scientific works, legal documents, and correspondence, not to mention Samaritan, Karaite, and more obscure writings as well. Between pp. 300 and 301 there are 32 plates showing how some of them appear and different types of Hebrew script (Ashkenazi and French, Byzantine, Egyptian, Italian, Oriental, Provençal, Sephardi, and Yemenite).

One of the most famous and valued items in this collection is the second-century BCE *Nash Papyrus*, on which the Ten Commandments and part of the *Shema* are written.

A manuscript's dating (by the scribe) is usually — but not invariably — accurate. Describing a Spanish illuminated Bible, for example, Reif notes that "the chronogram yields Tuesday 18 February AD 856. This date (which has been altered) is certainly not relevant to the current codex, the writing and ornamentation of which are characteristic of Sefardi Bibles of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries."

Prayer books of the Roman and Italian, Provençal, and French and Ashkenazi rites often bear the name and mark of a papal censor, who frequently erased words or passages "offensive to Christianity." Thus, in a 15th-century French siddur, "the usual erasure occurs in the *aleynu* (l. 12v)." This indicates that a sentence in the *Aleynu* prayer's first paragraph (actually drawn from Isaiah 30:7 and 45:20) was thought to reflect on Jesus and accordingly blacked out!

Referring to Herbert Loewe's comprehensive *Handlist*, Reif observes that the estimated cost of printing 500 copies in 1935 was just £557, but the University Library "somehow found reasons not to proceed with the publication." By 1956, the cost of publishing a slightly updated version of the same (by James Pearson and Herbert's son, Raphael Loewe) had risen to about £1,560, and scholars were then forced to make do with photocopies of the typescript. If the present weighty volume is anything to judge by, Cambridge University Library must now have more sensible administrators or far greater resources at its disposal, or both.

of the Communist Party USA.

Even LBJ's vice presidential choice, Minnesota Sen. Hubert Humphrey, a noted civil rights champion, heartily recommends dismissing Mississippi activists: "We're just not dealing with... emotionally stable people."

Johnson becomes so deeply depressed over the supposed threat that the Mississippi tussle represents to his re-election that he seriously considers withdrawing from the race just two days before he's nominated by acclamation. "I know that I'm not the best in the country," he dejectedly tells aide George Reedy. A close reading of *Taking Charge* will convince you that Johnson was dead right.

(Newsday)

JUST AS I AM: The Autobiography of Billy Graham. Harper San Francisco, Zondervan Publishing House. 760 pp. \$28.50.

By Greer Fay Cashman

On his first visit to Israel in March 1960, the superstar evangelist Billy Graham was not exactly welcome. With Israel's Orthodox community constantly jittery about Christian missionaries, Graham, who had chalked up a remarkable number of converts in his crusades around the world, was perceived as a dangerous threat.

Although he described his tour here as a "success" and a "wonderful experience," the archives of *The Jerusalem Post* suggest that his path was figuratively if not literally lined with thorns. While he was able to hire church halls and other Christian sites for meetings in Jerusalem, Nazareth and Haifa, he couldn't get a hall in Tel Aviv. The United Christian Council of Israel tried to secure ZOA House and failed. The results were no better with the Mann Auditorium, and the reason for the unavailability of these premises was soon traced to the Foreign Ministry, which made no attempt to deny its role. Dr. Graham could have the Mann Auditorium, it said, if there were assurances that his appearance there would not be of a missionary character. The UCC refused to give such an undertaking, and in the end the Tel Aviv meeting was moved to a church in Jaffa.

But whatever hostility there had been against him was dispelled by his declaration that he had come to preach the Gospel to Christians, not to Jews, and that he had not come to proselytize. Nonetheless, some Jews did attend his meetings out of curiosity, and a few fell under his spell and came forward and declared themselves for Christ.

While in Israel, Graham met with the president and leaders of the government.

It is estimated that Billy Graham Crusades "have reached more than 200 million people in person," and millions more have heard or seen him through the media. Any way you look at it, his career, it is amazing how far this North Carolina farm boy has come.

Although he tries to make it appear otherwise, he has had an extraordinary impact on American politics, enjoying close relations with every president from Dwight Eisenhower to Bill Clinton. He played golf with some of them, prayed with all of them, and had particularly warm friendships with Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

Graham maintains that he was the one who persuaded Gerald Ford to grant Nixon a pardon after the Watergate affair.

Written as a simple, straightforward narrative, the book is a quick read, but it doesn't really tell you everything you ever wanted to know about Billy Graham but were afraid to ask.

What it does reveal is a strong attachment to family in general and to his wife Ruth in particular; an ability to instantly transport himself from the man he is to the boy he was; and an almost desperate need to give credit where it is due.

Graham, who entered the ministry in 1943 and began his meteoric rise in 1949, had many people on his team. It seems he has not forgotten



Billy Graham

Praying with presidents

any of them. Each page is liberally peppered with names of people who traveled part or most of the long road with him. In an ongoing display of graciousness, he writes about what they did and how well they did it, and in the process gives himself very few pats on the back. There are numerous references to humbling experiences gained through observing the behavior of others.

But perhaps the most interesting aspects of the book are the insights that he offers his readers to the presidents of the US, who it seems had no inhibitions about getting down on their knees to pray whenever they were deeply troubled.

He writes: "When a president of the United States, for example, wept in my presence, or knelt with me to pray, or privately unburdened his concerns about his family, I was not thinking about his political philosophy or his personality but about his need for God's help."

Somehow, one doesn't expect such open spirituality in hard-nosed politicians.

Graham has no problem pointing out his own flaws or laughing at himself, which is refreshing when one thinks how frequently other people in the public eye feel inclined to blow their own trumpets.

In more than half a century of crusading, Graham has been active in

the fight against segregation; he insisted on preaching to mixed congregations in the South. He is also an outspoken opponent of anti-Semitism and a friend of Israel.

He became powerful by using the media. Graham realized its potential very early in his career and he spread his message through newspaper columns, radio, television and films.

What also helped to promote his image was that he was blessed with a gift for oratory, and remarkably good looks, which at 79 have not deserted him. He still cuts an impressive figure, and although he is preparing himself for the next world, he continues with "the Lord's work" on earth. His campaigns in recent years have not been as strenuous as those of the 1980s, but between 1990 and 1996 he preached twice in Germany, several times in New York, as well as in Hong Kong, Seattle, Washington, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Buenos Aires, North Korea, Moscow, Philadelphia, Portland, Pittsburgh, Columbus, Cleveland, Tokyo, Beijing, Atlanta, San Juan, Toronto, Sacramento, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Charlotte.

That required considerable stamina, which Graham would not doubt attribute to the magnitude of his faith, glitz and overexposed as it might seem to outsiders.

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. *The Partner* by John Gisham. Dell, Arrow.
2. *Tycoon* by Harold Robbins. Pocket.
3. *Power Plays: Politics* by Tom Clancy and Martin Greenberg. Penguin, Berkley.
4. *McNally's Gamble* by Lawrence Sanders. Coronet, Berkley.
5. *Bible Code* by Michael Drosnin. Simon & Schuster.
6. *SSN* by Tom Clancy. HarperCollins.
7. *Lying on the Couch* by Irvin D. Yalom. Harper Perennial.
8. *No Regrets* by Elizabeth Adler. Coronet.
9. *Beyond Recall* by Robert Goddard. Corgi.
10. *Emotional Intelligence* by Daniel Goleman. Bantam.

No way, LBJ

By David J. Garrow

Lyndon B. Johnson secretly tape-recorded some 9,500 telephone conversations — about 643 hours' worth — during his five-year (1963-1969) presidency.

Richard Nixon taped even more, at least until the 1973 revelation that marked the beginning of the end of his presidency, but while Nixon's heirs have fought to keep most of his recordings secret, the Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas, has begun making

almost all of LBJ's recordings available to anyone who's interested.

Taking Charge contains an extensive selection of transcripts of Johnson recordings from Nov. 22, 1963, through August 1964. It's certainly not light reading, but it undeniably offers the most important window into the real world of the modern presidency that we've ever seen.

Even if you're interested in how LBJ kept the United States deeper and deeper into Vietnam, this book provides more raw material than you may want. It's

invaluable history, but it's not going to keep you up nights, either. Reading transcripts of other people's phone conversations is less exciting than you think — I've absorbed six years of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s — and with LBJ there's less humor, and fewer dirty jokes, than with King.

There are some good laughs, though. Maybe the best comes when FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover tells Johnson his opinion of *The Washington Post*: "I frankly don't read it. I view it like the *Daily Worker*," the newspaper

BOOK BYTES

Top-selling author Olivia Goldsmith, who remembers how difficult it was for her to get her first book published, convinced her publisher HarperCollins to sponsor a contest to tie in with her latest novel, *The Bestseller*, about five writers trying to achieve a breakthrough.

The 7,000 entries, when piled up in a small office, reached higher than Goldsmith's waist. The manuscripts were all works of unpublished authors, cursed with, as Goldsmith puts it, "the need to tell a story, the courage to place word after word, like brick after brick, until the bulk of the structure rises above the mud rats around you." And the winner was Dalia Rabinovich's *Flora's Suitcase*, a novel about the lives of Jewish immigrants in Latin America. It grew out of a project begun at Brooklyn College, where she earned a degree in creative writing. *Flora's Suitcase* will be published by HarperCollins.

PLAGIARISM, or a psychological aberration? A touch of mystery surrounds romance novelist Janet Dailey's admission to plagiarizing rival romance writer Nora Roberts. Roberts is suing Dailey for copyright infringement, and will donate any money she receives in a settlement to the Literacy Volunteers of America. Dailey asserts that her liftings were "essentially random and non-pervasive acts of copying" due to a psychological disorder. "I have already begun treatment for the disorder, and have been assured that, with treatment, this behavior can be prevented." The psychological name of this specific behavioral disorder remains undisclosed.

EARLY FEMINIST Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935) achieved lasting fame for *The Yellow Wallpaper*, her story of a woman's mental breakdown. The book is currently in print from six

publishers, and the Feminist Press alone has sold over 258,000 copies of their 1973 edition of *Wallpaper*.

The FP is now releasing Gilman's first and only detective novel, *Unpunished*, in which a husband-and-wife team sleuth out domestic violence as well as murder. It was no less a figure than Theodore Dreiser who urged the then-69-year-old Gilman to write in a more popular genre, if she wanted to sell. However, the 1929 novel did not find a publisher. The manuscript lay undisturbed in Radcliffe College's Schlesinger Library until it was discovered by two English professors.

IN A LETTER to the editor of the *Library Association Record*, Eileen Davies of Oxford draws attention to "what must be one of the earliest recorded copyright disputes" in history. It involves St. Columba, whose death 1,400 years ago was marked this year. As a young monk in Ireland, Columba copied a manuscript of his master St. Finnian without his knowledge. A dispute arose as to who owned the copy, and King Diarmid settled it in Finnian's favor. Columba took exception to the king's decision, and started "a rather bloody war." The Irish Church excommunicated and exiled him. Made a pilgrim, Columba found a safe haven on the Scottish island of Iona. Ms. Davies quips that he might now be counted as the "patron saint of photocopyers."

THE TRANSFORMATION of tiny Hay-on-Wye in Wales into a second-hand book mecca began in the 1960s. The idea of a whole town selling books next spread to Redu in Belgium. And since 1990 around 100,000 book lovers a year flock to Montolieu, a town in southern France of 800 with one bakery, one bistro and 12 bookshops purveying thousands of titles in a dozen languages.

David Brauner

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Foster. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A Confederate soldier journeys home to meet an old love.
2. *The Ghost* by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte \$25.95.) On a trip to New England, a man finds answers to his problems in an old trunk.
3. *Cat & Mouse* by James Patterson. (Little, Brown \$24.95.) Alex Cross versus two serial killers.
4. *The Letter* by Richard Paul Evans. (Simon & Schuster \$15.95.) In the last volume of the "Christmas Box" trilogy, the Partin family recovers from the loss of a daughter.
5. *A Certain Justice* by P.D. James. (Knopf \$23.) Adam Dalglish in pursuit of the murderer of a celebrated and widely respected criminal lawyer.
6. *The Winner* by David Baldacci. (Warner \$25.) The tribulations of a dirt poor woman who reluctantly participates in a scam to win the national lottery.
7. *Another City, Not My Own* by Cornelia Durne. (Crown \$25.) The O.J. Simpson murder trial as witnessed by a journalist.
8. *The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans. (Simon & Schuster \$14.95.) When a family moves in with a widow, they all learn the significance of Christmas.
9. *Wobegon Boy* by Garrison Keillor. (Viking \$24.95.) After moving to New York, the manager of a radio station comes to terms with his Midwestern heritage.
10. *Commander Moon* by Larry McMurtry. (Simon & Schuster \$28.50.) Texas rangers, veterans of "Lonesome Dove," battle defiant Comanches determined to defend their way of life.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt. (Random House \$23.) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.
2. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood. *The Dark Tower*, a series about time and the mysteries of Limerick.
3. *The Man Who Listens to Horses* by Monty Roberts. (Random House \$23.) The memoirs of a horse trainer.
4. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger. (Norton \$23.95.) An account of the nor'easter of 1991.
5. *Citizen Soldiers* by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Simon & Schuster \$27.50.) The US Army from Normandy to the Bulge to Germany's surrender.
6. *The Dark Side of Camelot* by Seymour Hersh. (Little, Brown \$25.95.) A journalist's reappraisal of the private and public life of John F. Kennedy.
7. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
8. *Tuesday's with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$13.95.) A sports writer talks of his weekly visits to his old college mentor, who was near death's door.
9. *Dirty Jokes and Beer* by Drew Carey. (Hyperion \$22.95.) Observations on his life and life in general by the comedian.
10. *Sources of Strength* by Jimmy Carter. (Times Books/Random House \$23.) Inspirational meditations on the Bible by the former president.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *Tom Clancy's Power Plays: Politics* created by Tom Clancy and Martin Greenberg. (Berkley \$7.50.) In 1998, an American contends with terrorists threatening his business in Russia.
2. *Wizard and Glass* by Stephen King. (Plume \$17.95.) Volume 4 of *The Dark Tower*, a series about time and a heroic past.
3. *"M" is for Malice* by Sue Grafton. (Fawcett \$7.99.) Murder results when some in line to inherit a fortune seek their long-missing black-sheep brother.
4. *Ellen Foster* by Kaye Gibbons. (Viking \$10.) A girl learns self-reliance growing up with wicked relatives in the backwoods South.
5. *See Swept* by Nora Roberts. (Love \$7.50.) Family rivalries flare anew when a champion boat racer returns to help a troubled brother.
6. *Total Control* by David Baldacci. (Warner Vision \$7.50.) A woman's efforts to find her husband reveals the dark side of his business.
7. *Sole Survivor* by Dean Koontz. (Ballantine \$7.98.) A reporter searches for a woman who claims to know a secret about the plane crash that killed his family.
8. *A Virtuous Woman* by Kaye Gibbons. (Viking \$10.) The daughter of a Carolina gentry finds love with a tenant farmer.
9. *The List* by Steve Martin. (Love \$7.50.) A writer's scheme to get her novel on the bestseller list leads to murder and endangers her own life.
10. *Petals on the River* by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss. (Avon \$7.50.) An upper-class Englishwoman, forced into indentured servitude, finds love with a widower in 18th-century Virginia.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone \$13.95.) The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.
2. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet.
3. *Girlfriends* by Carmen Renee Berry and Tamara Traeder. (Wildcat Canyon \$12.95.) The ties that bind women of all ages.
4. *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.) Householders sue industrial polluters.
5. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother in Brooklyn.
6. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) A young man's obsession with the wilderness ends tragically in Alaska.
7. *Hanson* by Jill Matthews. (Archway/Pocket \$3.99.) The story of the pop-rock group.
8. *Underboos* by Peter Maas. (Harper Paperbacks \$6.99.) Life in the Mafia as lived by Salvatore (Sammy the Bull) Gravano.
9. *A Child Called "It"* by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95.) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.
10. *Anatomy of the Spirit* by Caroline Myss. (Three Rivers \$14.) The importance of holistic "energy medicine" in cultivating spiritual and physical power.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Keiser. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
3. *Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Reed Hawthorne, and Marci Shimoff. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
4. *Chicken Soup for the Women's Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, et al. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Joy of Cooking* by Irma S. Rombauer, Marion Rombauer Becker and Ethan Becker. (Scribner \$30.) Revision of the book first published in 1931.
2. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
3. *Making Faces* by Kevin Aucoin. (Little, Brown \$29.95.) Counsel about cosmetics from a makeup artist.
4. *Make the Connection* by Bob Greene and Oprah Winfrey. (Hyperion \$18.95.) Ways to improve one's life physically and mentally.

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Misunderstanding on security

It is unfortunate, if almost inevitable, that a secret Israeli-Palestinian agreement on security cooperation leaked out before it was completed. What is hard to understand is why government sources would start criticizing parts of the agreement, thereby picking another fight with the security establishment.

The short, 16-point document, titled "Memorandum of Understanding on Security," is a potentially critical element in the resuscitation of the peace process, because it outlines the practical steps the Palestinians will take to combat terrorism. What is striking about the document is not so much what the Palestinians commit to do, but that most of its clauses apply to Israel as well.

Ministers and officials are reacting to the document as a case of "reciprocity" coming back to bite the hand that fed it. The government evidently made reciprocity the centerpiece of its peace policy, never thinking that the war on terrorism itself was to be reciprocal.

In practice, the government is right that, despite isolated examples to the contrary, there is no symmetry between the threat of terrorism against Israelis and against Palestinians. Israelis who have resorted to terrorism can be counted on one hand, and their names have gone down in infamy among the vast majority of their countrymen. On the Palestinian side, there is a very live conflict between organizations that support terrorism and those which do not, with each side receiving substantial popular support. The Palestinian Authority itself has implicitly linked its commitment to combat terrorism to the temperature of the peace process, rather than making a "relentless" (as US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has demanded) effort to eliminate terrorism for good.

On the other hand, it is hard to see why Israel should be concerned about committing to combat the largely theoretical threat of Israeli terrorism against Palestinians. First, Israel already, and for its own reasons, must be vigilant against Israeli extremists who resort to violence against Palestinians. Second, if Palestinian violence as a whole were to reject terrorism as deeply and fundamentally as has Israeli society, Israeli security and the peace process would rise to an entirely different plane.

A more valid reason to treat the leaked document with skepticism would be that it reiterates promises that have been made many times over, since the beginning of the Oslo process. Each time, the commitments are repeated in greater

detail. The question is whether such a progression is not like speaking louder to someone who does not understand the language you are speaking.

At this point, what matters more than the exact drafting of the document is whether the difficult practical elements of security cooperation have been worked out. A number of clauses in the document, for example, refer to the sharing of information. How much information sharing actually takes place will depend on the trust that is built between the security services on each side. That trust cannot be written into the agreement itself; it must be built over time, on the ground, and is much more easily destroyed than it is constructed.

In this vein, it is a major mistake for government officials to exhibit distrust in the military leaders who have been assigned the task of negotiating the security agreement. The political level has not only the right but the obligation to provide a level of judgment separate from the military level. But any differences should be ironed out internally, not in front of the Palestinians, let alone in public.

It is precisely the danger of undermining the trust that must exist between Israeli and Palestinian security services that makes the use of military officers as negotiators problematic. As opposition leader, Benjamin Netanyahu was rightly critical of the government for turning generals into negotiators; he should listen to his own advice.

When Netanyahu brought OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai with him to Paris to brief Albright and American generals he was right to be proud that he had brought the process to a new level of detail. But putting the same Yanai in charge of negotiating an agreement on security cooperation risks crossing the fine line between the roles of diplomats and generals.

The proper role of generals is to provide professional advice to the political level and to work out the details of implementation once agreements are signed. The leaked security document is not yet detailed enough to provide the forces on the ground with the practical guidance they need to implement full security cooperation. Now that the leak has shaken things up anyway, it would be a good opportunity to create a more proper division of labor: let the politicians agree on general principles and let the security services work out the details of implementation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEVEH ZIV

Sir, - Twenty four years ago Carlos, the international terrorist, now starting a life sentence in France, tried to kill Teddy Sieff, a leader of British Zionism who for thirty years helped British Jews settle in Galilee.

He was saved by the alertness of his wife Lois, but died in 1982.

Seven years ago it was decided to set up a settlement in Teddy Sieff's name east of Kabri in the Western Galilee - Neveh Ziv in

March this year Ariel Sharon allocated land for this purpose. The aim of the settlement planned for 800 families, of which 145 are in the first stage, is to attract immigrants from English-speaking countries, with special emphasis today on South Africa and Britain.

Four months ago a Jewish Agency official in the North of Israel decided to override the decision of the agency to allocate land for immigrant absorp-

tion in this area, first made 10 years ago. Instead he decided to give it to his friends instead.

Perhaps the British delegates to the Zionist Congress can get an explanation from Abraham Burg, the Chairman of the Jewish Agency. Lois Sieff has been unable to get one.

BORIS BAR-NESS,
Chairman, Amuta, Neveh Ziv.

Nahariya.

KUDOS TO CHAZAN

Sir, - I simply must commend MK Naomi Chazan's excellent article in the December 12 weekend Jerusalem Post and your printing of it. It is the voice of wisdom, truth and humanity and I only wish more of us Israelis were of like reasoning and conscience. This way of thinking only could lead us to becoming "a light unto the nations." Thank you Naomi Chazan!

H. DAGUT

Haifa.

IMPORTANT COMMITTEE

Sir, - Your report "Sharansky backs Neeman proposal" (December 17) on the Becket Fund's Conference on Religious Pluralism and Liberty, referred to my comments regarding the possibilities of the Chief Rabbinate being able to respond affirmatively to the Neeman Commission's recommendations.

However I wish to clarify that my presentation also referred to

the great importance and significance of the Neeman Commission for the Jewish people as a whole, as a platform and process for dialogue and cooperation between the different segments of contemporary Jewry.

RABBI DAVID ROSEN,
Director,
Anti-Defamation League -
Israel Office.
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 25, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported on the death of a child and his father's loss of a hand and serious injury when a bomb was thrown into the settler's house in Nahalal. The bomb was of a local make. Excavations continued of an ancient synagogue at El Hamima.

50 years ago: On December 25, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that fierce fighting continued in Haifa. A casualty toll of eight deaths, four Jews, and four Arabs, nine seriously wounded, three of them Jews and six Arabs, and 25 wounded, 13 Jews and 12 Arabs, was caused in the non-stop sniping by Arabs and Hagana return of fire, as well as firing by police and British troops. Most of the Jewish casualties were suffered in transport crossing the Rushdieh Bridge. Three Arabs were surprised and

killed by a Jewish patrol when attempting to damage the water pipeline in the Negev.

A British Army evacuation train of 11 wagons bound for Egypt was held up and robbed by Arab gunmen near Lod.

There was sporadic shooting in Jerusalem throughout the night.

American writer Meyer Levin, French journalist and actress, and daughter-in-law of Leon Blum, Teresa Torres, actor J. Michaelowitz, and Pathe News cameraman Bertrand Hesse, who came to Haifa with the "illegal" immigrants of *The Unaffraid* were arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department. They were in the middle of their work on the last scene of a documentary film record of the Jewish flight from Europe and arrival in Palestine. All four had proper visas, but were refused entry and were to be deported.

The Arab Press continued to boast and present imaginary reports of Jewish casualties. Instructions to all Arab newspapermen and leaders not to divulge the number of Arab casualties inflicted by the Hagana were issued by the Arab Higher Executive.

Jewish youth continued to be charged for possessing arms whenever caught by police.

25 years ago: On December 25, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Jews in Moscow and Leningrad were staging a three-day hunger strike in their homes to commemorate the December 1970 Leningrad hijacking trial. An American woman married to a Soviet Jewish citizen asked for the US Congress aid on Soviet Ransom tax demanded from her husband in order to allow him to leave the Soviet Union.

Alexander Zvielli

I'LL BUDGET TWO PILLS FOR THIS PATIENT



MEG 97

No rogue operation

On the eve of her planned visit to Jonathan Pollard a week ago, Communications Minister Limor Livnat told CNN that, as a result of a Foreign Ministry briefing prior to her departure, she believed that Pollard's actions for Israel while a US Naval intelligence officer was a "rogue operation."

Next day, as she entered Pollard's cell, he said to her: "I thank you for coming to see me. The only reason why I have been a prisoner for 13 years is based on the false concept that I was engaged in a rogue operation. Successive Israeli governments have used that lie to deny responsibility for my actions. The US will never release me until the Israelis begin to tell the truth."

In response to her shocked expression, Pollard explained if Israel had admitted he was their paid agent "the Americans were prepared to sweep the matter under the rug. I would not have spent a single day in prison. George Shultz, the secretary of state who was sympathetic to Israel, felt precisely the same way. I would have been put on a plane to Israel and that would have been the end of the affair."

According to testimony of a Shultz aide, the Israelis were told: "Ask Aviem Sela (one of Pollard's three handlers) to give us an affidavit about the truth. Pollard admitted all the details and passed 15 lie detector tests to prove it. We need all this in writing. If it supports Pollard we can be friends again."

The Israeli government decided against this advice, for such an admission would have forced then defense minister Yitzhak Rabin as well as premier Shimon Peres to resign. Their "washing their hands" document claiming that Pollard's role was never sanctioned by Jerusalem enraged Shultz. He promptly advised the US Justice Department to issue indictments

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

against Pollard and Sela.

Livnat told Pollard that she had been refused official permission last year by the Israeli government to visit him. Startled by Pollard's outburst, she said that the policy of "quiet diplomacy" had failed miserably and that Jerusalem must now pressure the US to pardon Pollard promptly. "Please convince Netanyahu to sign a joint letter with Ehud Barak asking for my release," were Pollard's last words to her.

Rabin was aware of how Pollard was a highly valued agent

In tears as she left him, Limor Livnat hugged him close to her and said "I will do all I can to help you."

IN the wake of Limor's call on Pollard, a foreign ministry spokesman told *Yediot Aharanot* last week of deep concern about "the festival of visits in the media limelight to Jonathan Pollard." He added that this was dangerous and damaging to Pollard's case and harmful to his best interests.

The angered Livnat reacted promptly: "The negative remarks made about my visit to Pollard are outrageous. It's time that the government now openly assists him to obtain his freedom." She added that Netanyahu had given her a personal letter to deliver to Pollard.

In a damage control operation, the director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Eitan Ben-Tsur rebuffed his own official's comments. Nonetheless, his ministry persists in

the "rogue operation" thesis. The falsehood embedded in this stand was underlined by Rabin's former aide, Eitan Haber who is reported to have revealed that if the findings of the Rottensreich and Abba Eban secret commissions of inquiry had been published, Rabin, Peres and Shamir would have been forced to resign. This column can also reveal that Eban declared that Rabin, as head of the Lakam intelligence unit, run by Rafi Eitan, was aware of how Pollard was a highly valued agent.

The recent visits by government ministers Yuli Edelstein and Limor Livnat to Pollard's cell has encouraged some US congressmen and senators to mobilize support to seek a pardon with a "quiet diplomacy" approach, which in reality means sweeping the issue under the carpet. As it was put to this column by a high ranking Washington personality:

"The muffled voices of Israeli officialdom is causing deep bafflement at the White House as to whether the Israeli government is serious or not about wanting the release or not. The mobilization of support for Pollard has been stopped dead in its tracks by negative comments made by David Levy and the Israeli Foreign Ministry," commented a frequent visitor to President Clinton. Adding to force in this feeling of bewilderment was a recent high level visit by Israeli officials to the US when Pollard's name was not even mentioned or even hinted at.

"You cannot expect US senators and congressmen to be holier than the pope. Israel must cease talking out of two sides of the same mouth at the same time about Pollard," was an inate comment made to us this week from our source.

The writers are Jerusalem Post columnists.

Out of Ofakim

LARRY DERFNER

The well-intentioned middle-class has always taken a hypocritical attitude towards the poor. It's on display now in the way most Israelis are reacting to the misery in Ofakim.

Such a shame, we say. The people down there are right: The government has to spend more money on Ofakim and all those other depressed development towns. We have to build them up. This is what the poor people down there are telling us, and, as well-intentioned middle-class folks, we're with them all the way.

It's an easy attitude to take - from a distance. It costs us nothing to mouth these sentiments - as long as we're talking about those people, those botheaded, unshaven, uneducated types who live in the lower depths. Those people we don't want for neighbors.

But what if you or I had a close relative living in Ofakim? A nephew, let's say, who'd just finished the army or maybe had never done the army, who'd graduated high school or maybe hadn't graduated high school. If we went to visit him, and he complained that nobody cares about Ofakim, and that Minister So-and-so and MK So-and-so never come to town, what would we tell him?

That he's right - that the government has to save him? That this is the answer to his problems?

No. We would be appalled. We would think: This kid had better get his mind right, or he's finished.

Where did he get the idea that the government can fly in and lift him up from a life of failure to a life of success? Sure, the government should do more; it would help. But will another couple of low-wage factories, another few shekels in welfare, another hour of school a day

Self-reliance is what got our parents, or grandparents, out of their rut

really turn it around for him?

IF this was your nephew or mine, we would want to shake him and say: Look around you. Ofakim is a ditch. It's been one for 40-odd years, and it's only getting worse. So is Netivot, Mitzpe Ramon, and a lot of other dead-end towns in the Negev and Galilee. No matter how good or how bad the economy's doing, the depression's always on in places like Ofakim.

We'd tell him: Ben-Gurion didn't save you, and neither did Begin, and neither will Bibi and neither will Barak. These towns are beyond anybody's best intentions.

I'm sorry you were unlucky enough to be born here, but you've got to get out. It's been done - by thousands and thousands of people.

But first you have to get rid of this passive mentality that somebody else is going to do it for you. You have to stop waiting for the king and his lords to come riding through town, tossing gold coins, as if this will help. I'm afraid you have an attitude problem. You learned it here, and so did a lot of your family, friends and neighbors, and you're just dragging each other further and further down.

So get on the phone, get on the bus, find a job, create a job, save money.

I'll lend you some, and if I don't have any, maybe somebody else does. Fight your way out of this rut. The government can do maybe 5% or 10%, the rest is on you.

You're my nephew, and I don't want to see you buried here any longer.

The above is a middle-class message of self-reliance. If you or I had a nephew in Ofakim, this is what we would tell him, just like we tell our children.

Self-reliance is what got our parents, or grandparents, out of their rut, and this is the attitude they passed onto us.

But chances are we don't have nephews in Ofakim. The people there are very different from us, and we in the middle-class don't identify with them. So we can encourage their crippling illusions about rebuilding the development towns. It makes us feel generous.

And in a few days, when Ofakim is forgotten again, we won't be the ones to suffer the consequences of these illusions; they will. After all, we'll still be up here, and they'll still be down there.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

Germany's problem

JACOB HEILBRUNN

What is taking place in Germany is a war of memories. If you think Germany was guilty of a unique crime in seeking to exterminate European Jewry, then the country carries a special stigma that will always separate it from other countries. Hence, Germany must be more careful about flexing its muscles at home and abroad. But if you're part of the new Right, you have no

German officials remain willfully blind to the extent of neo-Nazism in their society

patience with this notion. Germany is a normal country, like any other, and can assert its own interests without feeling ashamed of its history.

THE neo-Nazi infiltration of the Federal Defense Force, or army, shows for example that key officials have been aiding these sinister forces.

According to the army's own statistics, the number of neo-Nazi incidents in its own ranks has tripled in the past year. The most prominent case concerns a lawyer and neo-Nazi terrorist named Manfred Roeder. In 1982, Roeder was sentenced to 13 years in prison for participating in an attack that killed two Vietnamese asylum seekers.

He got early release for good behavior, but promptly began to agitate again on the neo-Nazi scene. He founded an organization for the "Re-Germanization of East Prussia." Amazingly, Roeder got money from the Foreign Office for his project. The Hamburg Military Leadership Academy invited him to give an address about bringing back Germans to East Prussia.

The case of Roeder is simply the most glaring sign that the army has a Nazi problem. Some of the recent incidents include soldiers in uniform protesting the exhibition on the

German army's World War II crimes; a self-filmed video of soldiers pretending to rape and execute civilians; two young soldiers in Dresden burning down a house where Italian construction workers lived; a video of a soldier climbing into an oven in imitation of Auschwitz and soldiers in the former East Germany giving the "Heil Hitler" straight-arm salute.

Most recently, it was disclosed that when Defense Minister Volker Ruehe visited Croatia, where German soldiers are serving in the peacekeeping forces, the troops started yelling, "Heil Hitler!" Ruehe has claimed these are all isolated cases, but this seems implausible. German officials remain willfully blind to the extent of neo-Nazism in their society.

At the same time, the German government has been foot-dragging when it comes to reparations for survivors of the Holocaust in Eastern Europe. The Cold War meant that Germany never had to compensate these survivors. The German government is also enabling big industry to avoid paying funds to former slave laborers. It is hard to see how the government, even accidentally, can hand out funds to a neo-Nazi terrorist such as Roeder and fail to come to an agreement with remaining victims. Now that the Cold War is over, Germany has a moral obligation to make restitution.

When the Berlin Wall came down, it might have looked in Germany as though the Nazi era finally could be retired to the history books. The country was peacefully reunited. It could take its place among the European nations as an equal rather than junior partner. It would serve as the anchor of the United States of Europe.

But the end of the Cold War did not close the question of Nazism.

It reopened it. France, Austria and Belgium all have resurgent right-wing movements. Now, Germany is confronting many of the nationalist ghosts it suppressed during the Cold War. The ghosts are back, and it must begin by acknowledging their existence.

(Los Angeles Times)

Weekender

The year of living modestly

Small-scale, independent films provided the best viewing in 1997

By ADINA HOFFMAN

This year was a good one for film. And I use the word "good" – not "great" or "wonderful" – advisedly, since 1997 brought a sizable batch of reasonably well-made and thoughtful pictures, movies that didn't mean change the face of the art but which, in the meantime, have consistently provided entertainment of a modest and satisfying sort. Though Hollywood continued to crank out its usual overblown, empty-headed special-effects vehicles, it seemed to be more substance and variety to pick and choose from than in recent years, as well.

Makhmalbaf retrospective at the Jerusalem Film Festival and later shown in limited commercial release: although quite different from one another, both are works of astounding originality, texture, and deceptive formal simplicity – not to be confused with thematic naivete.

In his spare, wry way Makhmalbaf – a former revolutionary and political prisoner, who claims he never saw a film before the age of 23 – manages at once to use the most basic materials at hand (a single camera, non-professional actors, the streets of Tehran) and to question the very mechanisms on which the cinema relies (plot, role-playing and even the practice of shooting multiple

gusto: the film both pokes irreverent fun at the star's celebrity status and relies on it shamelessly).

3. *Ulee's Gold* is also an American movie, by Florida independent Victor Nunez, but its modest literary scope, restrained tempo and carefully understated characterizations bring it closer in spirit to a European film than anything the studio bosses, or Howard Stern, ever dreamed up. As the title character, a widower bee-keeper and emotionally cut-off Vietnam vet, Peter Fonda gives his fullest and most affecting performance ever.

4. The only big-budget, star-studded Hollywood picture – and the only action movie – on my list is *Face/Off*. Hong Kong virtuoso John Woo's crazily passionate shoot 'em up, which features John Travolta and Nicolas Cage in AC-DC roles: the two switch characters halfway through and ham it up as each other. Their performances are funny and strangely convincing, and Woo's choreography of their outrageous gun battles is, true to form, just as fluidly balletic as it is hyperbolically bloody.

5. It may not be perfect or profound, but *Bean* made me laugh harder and more spontaneously than any other movie this year. British comic Rowan Atkinson's demeanor as the haplessly mischievous, barely verbal Mr. Bean provided some of the year's most ticklish moments of physical comedy. (The only real competition came from Jim Carrey in *Liar Liar*, a mediocre movie with an inspired performance by its nimble crackpot of a star.)

6. Robert A. Harris and James C. Katz's expert restoration of Alfred Hitchcock's classic *Vertigo* was important on several fronts: by heightening colors that had begun to dull with the years and remastering Bernard Herrmann's great, hypnotic score, they returned to its proper place (the viscera) the impact of one of the cinema's most enduring romantic thrillers. At the same time, they set another admirable precedent for the release of other old films into current, world-wide circulation. This was also the year of *The Star Wars* trilogy come-back, after all, and while Luke Skywalker and



A soccer-mad schoolboy becomes a soccer-mad adult (Colin Firth) in 'Fever Pitch.'

Princess Lea clearly don't begin to approach in lasting resonance or depth the James Stewart-Kim Novak characters in Hitchcock's 1958 psychosexual masterpiece, the successful return of the popular sci-fi pictures also proved the viability (both economic and cultural) of keeping all these different pieces of film history in active circulation, and not just on the TV set.

7. A small French film with surprisingly large implications, *A Self-Made Hero* (or, in its more elegant, original title, *Un héros très discret*) blended sly humor with searing political allegory in a way that's quite rare in today's cinema. Jacques Audiard directed this caustic historical comedy, set just after World War II, about an over-imaginative young man who becomes quite powerful when he concocts a bogus identity for himself as a former hero of the Resistance. In choosing to deny the extent and nature of their relations with the Vichy government, Audiard makes clear, many contemporary French politicians have also dangerously fudged the past. Though its point is simple and tone amusing, the film unfolds with unexpected nuance and pathos.



Shock-jock Howard Stern sends himself up in 'Private Parts.'

8. Several modest British comedies came our way this year, my favorite of which was definitely *Fever Pitch*. Nick Hornby's winning adaptation of his own best-seller about his lifelong obsession with the Arsenal soccer club. The movie is a love triangle that puts Ruth Gemmell and the Highbury Gunners in direct competition for Colin Firth's affections, and one that manages, against the odds, to appeal both to those who love soccer and those who can't stand it.

9. *When the Cat's Away* (*Chacun cherche son chat*) is a marvelously fresh film by the French director Cedric Klapisch. A simple-seeming story of a lonely young Parisian's search for her missing pet, the movie evolves in unexpected ways as a bittersweet meditation on love, loss, gentrification and having next-door neighbors.

Like Eric Rohmer and François Truffaut before him, Klapisch displays affection for his beautiful heroine that seems to flow directly from his love for particular Parisian streets (or vice versa). The city exists here as both a real and a make-believe place, and Klapisch manages to juggle with unusual grace the casually hip young-singles atmosphere his characters inhabit with a melancholy wishfulness for the old ways, fast in decline.

10. And finally, I regret to report that one of the happiest surprises of my movie year was shared by few other viewers. For whatever reason, *Big Night*, a lovely little fable about food and families, money and art came and disappeared after just a few weeks here. Co-directed by actors Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott, this wise and perfectly proportioned picture deserved much more than the reception it got locally: then again, the very subject it took on (the difficulty of maintaining at one and the same time aesthetic standards and balanced books) seems also to have been its undoing. With a few exceptions, box-office success and artistic quality were still, in 1997, several leagues apart.

Roasting chestnuts on an open fire

By AMY KLEN

If you see a thick, tall tree trunk winding its way up four stories through the ceiling of a Jerusalem's Russian Compound.

They say the 30-40m. tree is 100 years old. It once stood in an apartment building courtyard, which was later enclosed around the tree. Later incarnations of the courtyard kept the thick old landmark, which bursts through the ceiling like Jack's beanstalk.

Galiano, formerly Arthur's, has also kept the tree but is undergoing renovations, most importantly in terms of its schedule. At least three times a week, Galiano will be hosting live music – rock, jazz and reggae-style bands. Thursdays, from midnight till daylight, the tables will be cleared for dancing.

Sundays are already booked with The Moshav Band, a classic rock-type Anglo group. You can see them tonight at 9:30 at Galiano's special Hanukkah party (no charge). Get a sampling of the place when they'll have live music most of the holiday.

The bar is dark and smoky, as seems to be a requisite of the Russian Compound (can't anyone just have a no-smoking, quiet bar where people can sit and talk, or am I just getting too old for this sort of thing?). But unlike its neighbors, it's rather large and roomy, a good place for a bigger crowd.

Galiano is open every night except Friday, from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. From 6 to 8 is happy hour (buy one drink, get one free). The bands will play from 9:30 till around midnight.

According to Avi Binyamin, the owner and manager, the prices of the drinks at Galiano are comparatively low, with a tequila slammer at NIS 7 and half a liter of beer at NIS 11.

There's no food served here. But during these winter months Binyamin, believe it or not, roasts chestnuts on an open fire (the black furnace standing in the corner). This gives the place the smell of a New York City street corner during the Christmas season.

And if you're wondering what you'll be doing on New Year's Eve instead of counting down as New York's Times Square big apple drops, you can reproduce the holiday spirit (i.e., get fabulously drunk) at Galiano's Sylvester party (there is an admission fee, which includes drinks).

Whenever you decide to go, Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year's or on a plain old Saturday night, don't overlook the one thing that makes this place unique: a tree grows in the bar room.

Galiano, 8 Horkanos, Jerusalem (02) 624-7644



Albert Dehous (Mathieu Kassovitz) pretends to be a member of the French resistance in 'A Self-Made Hero.'

an appealing range of scale. In general, though, it seems fair to say that the smaller, lighter films of 1997 were better (fresher, smarter, livelier) than their more grandiose counterparts.

For the record, it is probably worth noting the quality of many of the pictures that aren't included in the following round-up but which deserve mention: *Donnie Brasco*, *Secrets and Lies*, *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, *Blood and Wine*, *The Full Monty*, *LA Confidential*, *Ridicule*, *Copland*, *Mrs. Brown*, *The English Patient*, *Afterglow* and *Contact* all had much to recommend them. Your own top-10 list may include several of these. Mine does not. What follows is, then, not definitive; instead, this is a list of my favorite movies of the 130 or so new, commercial releases that I've seen in Israel during the last 12 months.

1. The most exciting event in my movie-going year was without a doubt my first encounter with the beautiful, complicated films of the director Mohsen Makhmalbaf. The first Iranian movies to be shown locally since the Ayatollah came to power, *Gabbah* and *A Moment of Innocence* were screened as part of a small

takes). Of all the films I've seen this year, these two (along with his powerful *Salaam Cinema*, which shows occasionally at the Cinematheques and serves as a companion piece to *A Moment*) were those that seem to me most likely to leave a lasting imprint on the art. Together with his countryman Abbas Kiarostami, whose concerns and methods are quite similar and whose *Taste of Cherry* won the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes festival, Makhmalbaf seems once again to be taking active part in a revolution – though this time of a non-violent, cinematic kind.

2. Although his no-holds-barred on-air exhibitionism exists several galaxies away from Makhmalbaf's quiet world of nomadic carpet weavers and chador-wearing virgins, New York radio personality Howard Stern is also concerned with the tricky self-exposure and subterfuge that playing a character entails. In *Private Parts*, Betty Thomas's delightful picture based on his autobiography, Stern plays himself and pretends to let it all (his sexual fixations, childhood traumas and marital ups and downs) hang out. And with hilarious

Movies on my mind

Actor Dan Turgeman talks about his favorite films

Dan Turgeman has starred in television dramas, miniseries and theater productions, both in Israel and abroad, such as an Israeli version of *Play It Again Sam*, and the Israeli television series *Emergency*. However, he says that movie acting is his highest priority and greatest love.

He began acting after the army, where he spent four years and completed an officer's course with the paratroopers. From Jerusalem, he moved to Tel Aviv to attend Tel Aviv University. Although he "still loves Jerusalem," Turgeman remained in Tel Aviv and lives near the trendy Sheinkin area.

For 12 years, acting in 15 films, seven plays and 10 TV dramas, Turgeman dreamed of writing, producing and appearing in a film version of the book *Minotaur*. His family has clearly lived out this dream with him: his wife, Anat Atzmon, holds a key part in the movie, portraying the mother of the character he plays.

As an actor-turned-film-director, Turgeman talks about the films that have made a lasting impression on him.

Plus, Jack was just wonderful."

3. *The Double Life of Veronique* directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski (1991) starring Irene Jacob.

"This movie didn't pretend to give answers, just asked the right questions. Sometimes asking the right question is harder, and more important, than giving answers. The movie displays a simple beauty."



4. *Blade Runner* directed by Ridley Scott (1982), starring Harrison Ford and Sean Young.

"The movie is philosophy, not just science. I've seen it many times. I've even seen the uncensored studio version."

5. The films of John Cassavetes, such as *Husbands* (1970), *A Woman under the Influence* (1974).

"These are great because they show people standing up to the system. They directly oppose the figures of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone, and it's so hard to do that. They show that stubborn human passion can do unforgettable things."

– Dahlia Scheindlin

Hot tips

By KAREN SUKAS

Tel Aviv Area

Today may be Christmas in the rest of the world, but in Tel Aviv it's Nearly New Year's. YES (Young English Speakers) celebrates the holiday season with a quasi-New Year's Eve party tonight at the Basel Hotel. The music, food and free-flowing beverages begin at 9. The hotel is located at 156 Hayarkon Street. Call (09) 862-0377 or 613-6306.

If you thought you had to give up Laserium with monster-truck rallies and tractor pulls when you came to Israel, guess again. The Planetarium at the Eretz Yisrael Museum is offering up a trippy 3-D laser-light show with music by the Beatles, Pink Floyd and others. Catch all the action tonight at

9:30 and 11.

New, young rock bands jam at Beit Lessin, the trendy Kikar Hamedina hot spot. The music starts at 10:30. Call 694-1111.

The musical production *It's All a Fairytale* is written and directed by Uri Poster, with music by Shuki Levi. It takes the Cinerama stage today at 10 a.m., 1, 4 and 6:45 p.m.

Jerusalem

In case you still had any lingering doubts that the Maccabees were the first Rastafarians, the Jerusalem Steel is offering up a reggae, calypso and classical Hanukkah concert. Saturday night at 8:30 at the Bible Lands Museum, 25 Granot Street. Call 561-1066.

Hadassah's Second Stage Theater presents Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. The Doctor's tribute to the seaside neighborhood of his youth goes on tonight at 8 at Merkaz Hamagshimim in the German Colony, 7a Dor V'Dorshav. Call 561-9165.

An international assortment of choruses and musicians from Ukraine, Greenland and the US salutes Israel tonight at 8:30 at the Jerusalem Theater. Henry Klansner conducts the program of classical and folk songs.

Alina Ashel's *Girl in the Flower* is a play for children based on Shalomit Cohen-Assaf's poems. Performance today at 11 a.m. at the Liberty Bell Garden Train Theater. A workshop entitled *Finger Faces* follows.

Congregation Mevakeshi Derech is holding a Hanukkah party and children's pageant, complete with candle lighting and doughnuts. Today at 4:30 p.m. At 22 Shai Agnon Street. Call 679-2502.

Television

What do you do when you find out that your recently departed grandfather wasn't just a regular working-class dog all his life but actually fought in an international anti-fascist brigade during the Spanish Civil War? Well, if you're in director Ken Loach's *Land and Freedom*, you rattle through his stuff and come up with a powerful and even entertaining film that airs on Second Showing tonight at 10.

1. *Cinema Paradiso* directed by Giuseppe Tornatore (1989), starring Philippe Noiret and Jacques Perrin.

"It doesn't matter where you're from – Israel, the US, France, Italy – audiences around the world can appreciate the warmth and love in this movie. It is a film that can show everyone in the audience a piece of his/her own life."

2. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* directed by Milos Forman (1975), starring Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher.

"This is one of the best films ever. It integrates so much, from every angle, and of course its brilliant point was that everything is backwards: the people on the outside – the sane – were the insane."

Weekender Food & Drink

To a soulful year

By CYNTHIA NICHOLSON
LAGHINE

Traditional soul food might have been good for the spirit, but it was awfully tough on the body. Luckily, there's a major rethinking going on where this high-fat cuisine is concerned. Enthusiasts are incorporating its elements into new dishes, bringing it into sync with today's healthier habits.

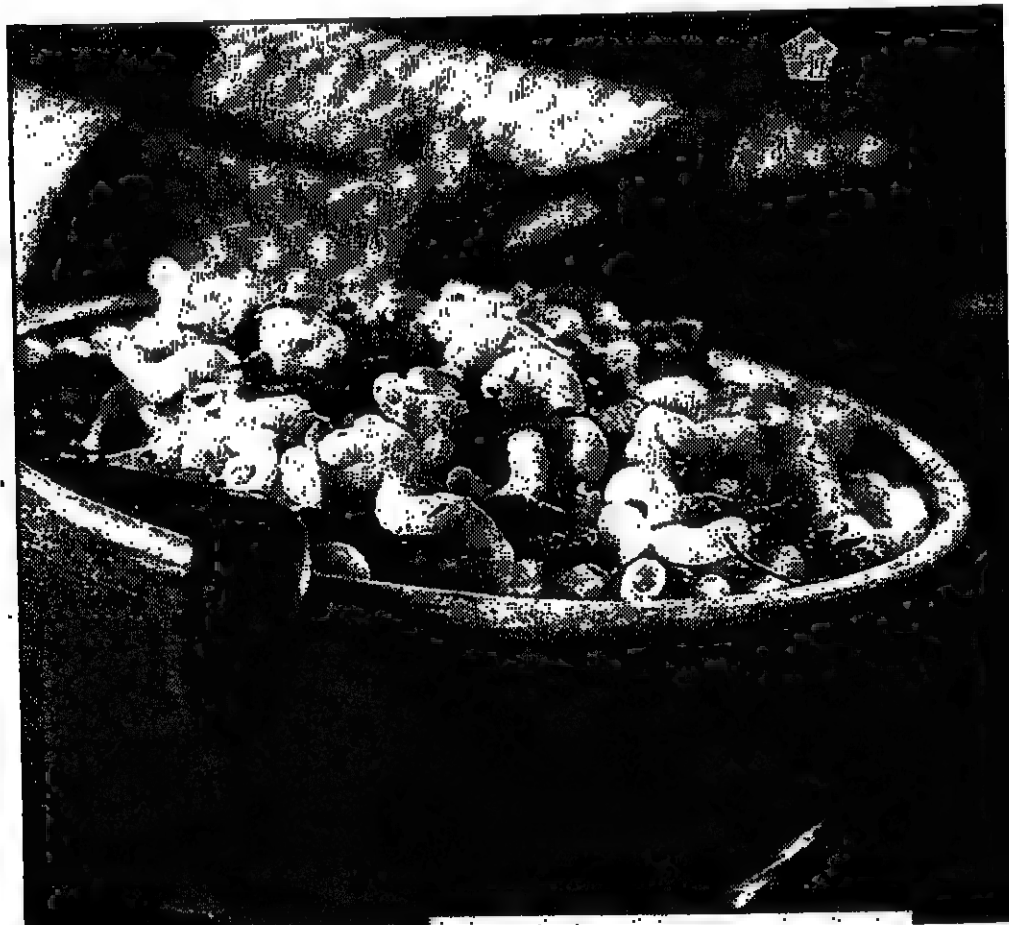
Consider the version of hoppin' John below, for instance. Instead of combining black-eyed peas with the usual salt pork or bacon, we've tossed them with pasta and sun-dried tomatoes for a version that's healthier — and kosher. We've also updated turnip greens with caramelized onions and added cumin to pan-roasted corn bread.

For dessert, nothing else would do but our Sweet Potato-Bourbon Tart. If eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day is supposed to bring you luck, imagine how lucky you'll be when you start off the year with this healthful menu.

JOHN'S HOT-AND-HOPPIN' CAVATAPPI

Be sure to use hot pepper sauce that contains whole peppers packed in vinegar. Using red-colored hot sauce won't yield good results.

- 2 cups water
- 1 1/2 cups frozen black-eyed peas
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes, packed without oil
- 1 1/2 tsp. and 1/4 cup hot pepper sauce, divided
- 4 cups hot cooked cavatappi (spiral-shaped pasta)
- 1/2 cup sliced green onions
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. dry mustard
- 2 Tbsp. finely chopped green chile
- 3 garlic cloves, minced



Combine first 4 ingredients in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes or until tender. Add tomatoes and 1 1/2 tsp. pepper sauce; simmer 5 minutes or until tomatoes are tender. Drain black-eyed pea mixture in a colander over a bowl, reserving 2 Tbsp. cooking liquid. Discard bay leaves.

Combine black-eyed pea mixture, pasta, onions and parsley in a large bowl. Combine reserved cooking liquid, 1/4 cup pepper sauce and remaining ingredients in a small bowl and stir well with a whisk. Pour chile mixture over pasta mixture and toss well.

Serve warm or at room temperature. (Serves 4.)

Sweet potato-bourbon tart.



TURNIP GREENS WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS

- 2 tsp. margarine
- 4 cups vertically sliced onion
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- cooking spray
- 1 kg. turnip greens, coarsely chopped
- hot pepper sauce (optional)

Melt margarine in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion; sauté 7 minutes. Stir in sugar and pepper. Cover, reduce heat to medium-low and cook 20 minutes or until golden, stirring frequently. Remove onion mixture from pan; set aside.

Place pan coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat until hot. Gradually add turnip greens and cook 10 minutes or until wilted, stirring frequently. Add onion mixture to turnip greens; stir gently.

Sprinkle with hot pepper sauce, if desired. Serve immediately. (Serves 6.)

PAN-ROASTED CORN-AND-CUMIN CORN BREAD

- cooking spray
- 1 cup corn
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil, divided
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup low-fat buttermilk
- 1 large egg

Preheat oven to 205°.

Place a 20-cm. cast-iron skillet or ovenproof heavy skillet coated with cooking spray over medium heat until hot. Add corn and cumin; sauté 3 minutes or until lightly browned. Place corn mixture in a large bowl; set aside.

Coat skillet with 2 tsp. oil. Place in a 205° oven for 10 minutes or until hot.

Add cornmeal and next 4 ingredients (flour through salt) to corn mixture. Combine remaining oil, buttermilk and egg in a bowl; add to corn mixture, stirring just until moist. Spoon into preheated skillet. Bake at 205° for 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. (Serves 8.)

SWEET POTATO-BOURBON TART

- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 4 Tbsp. margarine, divided
- 1/4 tsp. salt, divided
- 4 tsp. fat-free cream cheese
- 3 Tbsp. vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 4 medium-sized sweet potatoes
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp. bourbon or 1/4 tsp. rum extract and 3 Tbsp. water
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. ground allspice
- cooking spray
- 2 tsp. water
- 1 large egg white, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 205°. Combine sugar, 2 Tbsp. margarine, 1/4 tsp. salt and cream cheese in a medium bowl; beat at medium speed of a mixer until light and creamy. Add vanilla and 1 egg; beat well.

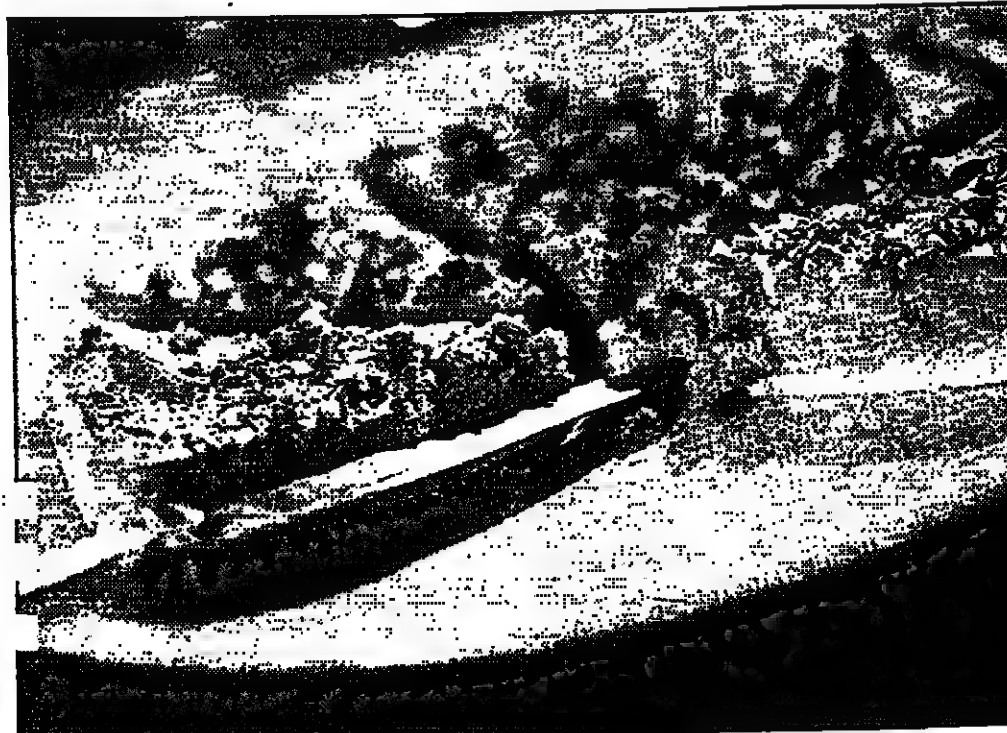
Gradually add flour, beating at low speed until moist. Press mixture gently into a 12-cm. circle on heavy-duty plastic wrap; cover with additional plastic wrap. Chill 1 hour.

While dough chills, bake sweet potatoes. Bake at 205° for 55 minutes or until very tender. Cool. Reduce oven temperature to 175°.

Peel potatoes; place potato pulp, brown sugar, bourbon, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, 2 eggs and remaining margarine, salt and vanilla in a large bowl. Beat at medium speed of a mixer until smooth; set aside.

Roll dough, still covered, into a 28-cm. circle. Remove 1 sheet of plastic wrap, and fit dough into a 23-cm. tart pan coated with cooking spray. Remove top sheet of plastic wrap. Spoon potato mixture into crust. Combine 2 tsp. water and egg white and brush edges of dough with egg white mixture. Sprinkle with chopped pecans. Bake tart at 175° for 1 hour or until puffy and set. Cool on a wire rack. (Serves 10.)

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Wine Cellar

Adding some spirits to Hanukka

By HOGA TARNOPOLSKY

Hanukkah is not a holiday associated with wine or spirits, but rather with choyne, or oily, sweet and often deep-fried desserts. My distaste for most of these dishes, along with the increasing availability of good wine in Israel and a bottle of Calvados I recently received, probably explain my delight with the following recipe, which I have taken from Claudia Roden's new book of Jewish Food.

Roden writes that roast goose with Calvados (an apple brandy) is a common Hanukkah dish among the Jews of Alsace. This inspired me to experiment as to whether other Hanukkah dishes could be made more palatable by the addition of wine or spirits. I am happy to report that potato latkes, when made with good fresh potatoes that have been grated and left to macerate in Swiss chard or water before being formed, are superb. It is important to let them drain well.

I am not a big fan of filled doughnuts, or *lagman*, because they are most often empty in texture, tasteless and filled with spammable fillings. However, if you will be making them at home, I recommend making them very small so that the dough, with fry evenly and quickly, adding spices to the batter instead of the more standard milk or water and filling them with plum jam or orange marmalade.

ROAST GOOSE WITH APPLES

from Claudia Roden's Book of Jewish Food
1 young goose, approximately 3 1/2 kg.
salt and pepper
cognac, brandy or Calvados
apples, quartered

for the sautéed apples:
8 apples, either tart or sweet
light vegetable oil or goose fat for frying
6 Tbsp. Calvados or cognac
2 tsp. cinnamon

Prick the skin of the goose in several places with a pointed knife, so that the fat can run out during roasting. Pour boiling water over the goose. Rub the goose inside and out with salt and pepper and then put the quartered onion and apple inside it. Place the goose on its back on a rack in a deep roasting pan.

Roast for 20 minutes in an oven preheated to 200°C, then reduce the temperature to 180°C, turn the goose over on its breast and roast for another 1 1/2 hours, or until the juices no longer run pink when you cut into the thigh with a pointed knife. Baste occasionally with the pan juices. Pour the fat out of the pan at least once.

Meanwhile, peel and cut the apples into slices. Using a large frying pan, sauté only one layer of apples at a time. Fry apples gently in sizzling goose fat or oil until lightly browned, turning them over once. Sauté them on each side with a slotted spoon and arrange in a baking dish. Continue with the rest of the apples. When the apples are all done, sprinkle them with Calvados and cinnamon; reheat them in the oven before serving.

Take the goose out of the oven and allow it to rest 15 minutes before carving. Drain the goose fat from the roasting pan and put the pan over a burner. Add a little water or white wine and boil vigorously for 5 minutes or so, scraping the pan juices to make a sauce. Arrange the goose on the apples and serve with the sauce. (Serves 6.)



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips



Leave the latkes (avoid)
Topgan's latkes, coming out right in time for Hanukkah, would be a blessing were it not for the fact that they are inedible. Made with "choice potatoes, starches, vegetable oil, salt, spices and leavening materials," the batch we tasted was so salty it went right to the circular file. Too bad, because they were compact and attractive and could be deep-fried for three minutes or — as a healthier but more time-consuming alternative — placed in the toaster oven for 20 minutes.

Honestly, it isn't that hard to make your own. Sold for NIS 13.95 for 700 gr., there's a "buy one, get one free" special on till the end of the month. Now you know why.

Tobleronetti (good)
If you like Toblerone chocolate, you'll enjoy the mini-version, which comes in 12.5 gr. packages (so you don't have to feel guilty). Until now there were only 45- and 450-gr. packages. The minis have a max price of NIS 1.50 each or NIS 14.95 for a 200-gr. package of them.

Rosemarie mini (good)
Elite calls them Napolitani and I can't figure out why. In any case, these mini Rosemaries are bite-sized versions of the original winner — milk-chocolate bars with nut cream inside — which has been a favorite since it was first introduced in 1985. My kids loved them. A package of 200 gr. of mini-Rosemaries sells for NIS 9.50.

Real coffee, please! (avoid)
Cappuccino. That's what the Italians call the delicious combination of coffee with steamed hot milk. Frothy on top, sometimes sprinkled with a little cocoa powder or cinnamon, it's a real treat, especially when made with really good coffee to begin with. In Israel, cappuccino has been bastardized in many cafes to include whipped cream, which is a delicious though irrelevant variation.

Lately there have been various attempts to corrupt it even further. Several weeks ago, I received a sample of Maxwell House's cappuccino with artificial vanilla flavor. The first ingredient listed was not coffee however, but rather sugar, along with partially hydrogenated soybean oil, sodium citrate, silicon dioxide (a free-flow agent) and disodium phosphate to help dissolving and artificial flavor. Was the flavor worth the chemicals? Not a chance.

This week I received Elite's version of the same travesty. The ingredients included sugar in first place, milk powder and instant coffee. It doesn't even taste good. NIS 16.90 for a 200-gr. can.

If you really want a good cup of cappuccino, go to a cafe or get yourself an espresso machine.

(Kosher) piggy bank (good)
Elite's new Hugo piggy bank — without the piggy — is a can that contains 200 gr. of chocolate coins and can be reused as a bank again and again. At NIS 21.90 it's a cute present, and the chocolate is good too, as chocolate coins go.

Other Elite specials for the holiday: *sevivonim* of various sizes filled with chocolates, candies and other Elite products, NIS 7.90 to NIS 18.90; and a cute dalmatian pouch filled with Elite products for NIS 21.50.

Back

By PHYLLIS GLAZER

There were some very nice recipes from the US in a recent article ("A toast to the green and gold," November 6) by Linda West Eckhardt and Laura Fraser. However, they called for a few confusing ingredients.

The recipe for "Santa Barbara pasta salad" calls for *tomatillos*. Are they cherry tomatoes? There also is a recipe for "roasted-eggplant dip with focaccia." Can we get packaged focaccia in Israel? Where? Regarding "vegetable pizza with feta cheese," can we purchase prepared pizza crusts in Israel? Where? (The recipe suggests Boboli, which I remember from the old country.)

— Audrey Scher, Jerusalem

Tomatillos also are called Mexican green tomatoes because they look like small green tomatoes in size, shape and appearance. They have thin husks and a lemony, apple-herb flavor. While you can try substituting green cherry

tomatoes, I wouldn't recommend them since green tomatoes are unhealthy. Use red cherry tomatoes instead.

I once saw packaged focaccia here during an Italian month at one of the supermarkets, but it has since disappeared. Perhaps you can try using *gibetta*, an Italian bread that is popular here.

I never have seen prepared pizza crusts in Israel, but if you want to make a quick pizza, try using toasted or regular pita, either split in half or left whole.

Readers write regarding the Kramers' desire to make homemade tofu (Feedback, November 21):

Janet Berg of Jerusalem suggests that they refer to *The Book of Tofu* by W. Shurtleff and Aoyagi (Autumn Press, 1975).

Judi Weinstein Haggai of Kibbutz Nir Oz writes: I've enjoyed your input for years now. Here's a chance for me to share something with you. A long time ago, when I discovered vegetarianism, I discovered the 10 Talents Cookbook.

Along with nice pictures, I've enjoyed this recipe for homemade, easy tofu. It can be saved as a spread in a glass jar. We used to add it to stir-fried vegetable combos. I remember your advice

to a reader to buy tofu, but if you can find soy flour, the work is nil.

HOMEMADE TOFU

- 1 scant cup soy flour
- 1 liter water
- 3-4 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Blend together flour and water in a blender or food processor till smooth. Place on top of a double boiler and boil for 20 minutes. Remove from heat and immediately add lemon juice and salt. Stir once and let cool undisturbed for 20 minutes.

Strain mixture in a colander lined with cheesecloth. For dry cheese, place a weight on top. Do not be generous with soy flour thinking you will get a better curd. If the mixture is too thick, it will not curd.

Use plain, or add sautéed onion, onion powder, soy sauce, paprika, tomato puree or garlic.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: phyllisglazer@jpost.co.il. Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

The Church of the Nativity

Day Tripper By Haim Shapira



According to the centuries-old status quo regulating the holy places, the rights to most of the historic church are held by the Greek Orthodox.

(David Harris)

Last night, the eyes and ears of much of the Western world, if not Israel, were on Bethlehem and on the Church of the Nativity, which marks the birthplace of Jesus.

The fact that the midnight mass broadcast all over the world did not take place in the Church of the Nativity was only one of the paradoxes regarding this ancient shrine and the Christian presence in Bethlehem. Another is that the town, with so many Christian sites and associations, is mostly Moslem.

While Palestinian spokesmen have often accused Israel of being the cause of the Christian emigration, which is one of the reasons for this small Christian presence, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah described the phenomenon as a theological "mystery." Speaking at an international conference on religious liberty in Jerusalem last week, Sabbah noted that there had been large-scale emigration by all communities, Moslem as well as Christian, and even Jewish. He went on to say that the Christian presence in Jerusalem and its environs had always been small. The first Christian episcopate had been in Caesarea, then in Antioch, he noted.

These days, Bethlehem is, of course, part of the Palestinian autonomy and it remains to be seen

whether the political situation between Israel and the Palestinians will become peaceful enough for the masses of pilgrims and tourists who once crowded the shrine to return. If there is peace, we can expect unprecedented numbers of visitors for the year 2000, marking two millennia of Christianity. But if there is no peace, even such a historic landmark will not bring visitors, who are not only fearful for their safety but unwilling to go to a place they imagine to be rife with strife.

For local visitors, I would recommend waiting for a sunny day on which there is no political unrest and making the short trip from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to see what is one of the country's most remarkable buildings. The church was built by Justinian in 540. It retains the historic basilica form, with two rows of parallel columns supporting the roof.

From Manger Square, one enters through a small doorway so low that one must stoop to enter. Whether this was a measure to force all those entering to pay obeisance, as some guides would have it, or a way of preventing conquerors from entering on horseback, as other guides say, is a matter of conjecture.

Inside, there are several wooden



(Nowitz)

covers on the floor, protecting the mosaics which have remained from the earlier, fourth century, church. Usually some of these covers are open, to allow you to see the mosaics. But just as impressive as these mosaics, if not as ancient, are the remains of frescoes on the columns and of the

12th-century mosaics on the south wall, above the columns.

To the east is the altar, under which is the crypt, a natural cave where a silver star in the floor marks the exact birthplace of Jesus. The walls of the crypt are covered by heavy leather hangings, apparently placed there to

prevent pious pilgrims from taking away bits of the wall to keep as sacred mementos.

According to the centuries-old status quo regulating the holy places, the rights to most of the historic church are held by the Greek Orthodox. North of the altar are an Armenian chapel and a smaller

Syrian Orthodox chapel. However, the Roman Catholics, who celebrate the mass which is broadcast throughout the world, have relatively few rights within this historic church. Their main Christmas service is held in the adjoining church, St. Catherine's, built in 1882, which is accessed through a small

door behind the Armenian chapel. Because the Orthodox churches in this country follow a calendar which is no longer used in the Western world, the Greek Orthodox mark Christmas on the eve of January 6, while the Armenians have their Christmas celebration on the eve of January 18.

Close Encounters By Allan Rabinowitz

The enduring mystery of Qumran

By ALLAN RABINOWITZ

In the 50 years since a Beduin boy stumbled upon a cave in Qumran filled with scrolls, the subsequent discoveries of hundreds of manuscripts known as the Dead Sea Scrolls have fascinated the world. Scores of books and thousands of articles have analyzed and speculated upon their place in first-century Jewish society, and possible links to early Christianity. Over the years the study of the scrolls itself became controversial, as various scholars, protecting their academic turf, hindered manuscript publication.

The ruins of Qumran near the northwestern tip of the Dead Sea, where the scrolls were found, is now a national park. At first glance the most remarkable thing about the site is how unremarkable it is as an archaeological excavation. Nevertheless, if you walk around the area you can begin to sense the lives of the men who isolated themselves here in the first century.

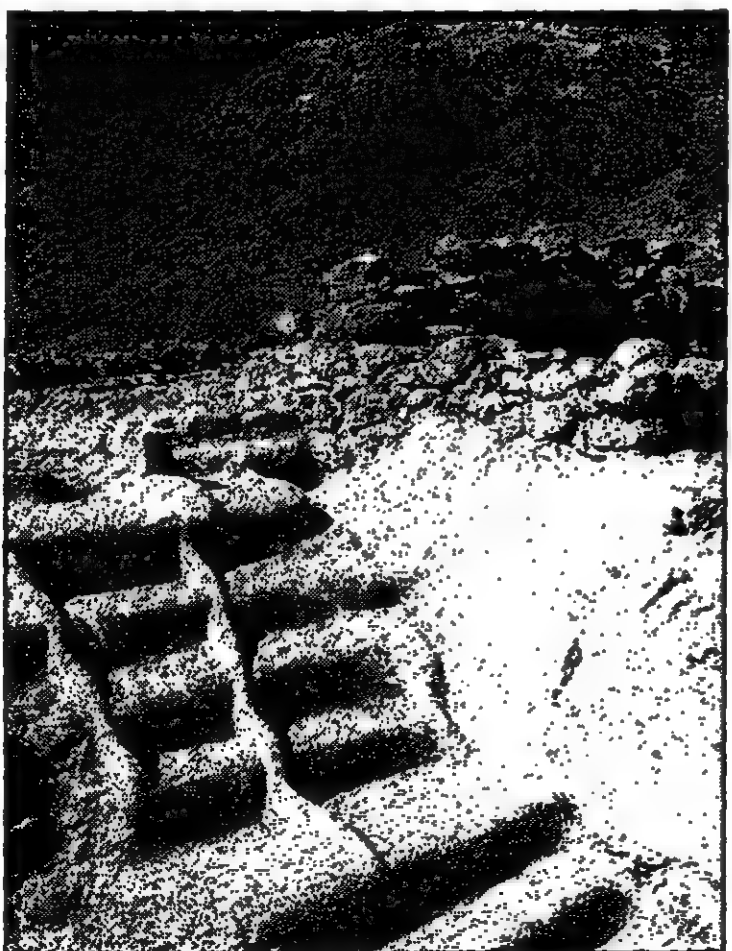
They were a community of Essenes, a movement which opposed the priestly establishment in Jerusalem, and their prolific writings expressed quasi-mystical interpretations of the Bible, a sense of impending apocalypse, and dedication to their own spiritual leader, rituals and collective functioning. The accounts of that

life, in such manuscripts as the Manual of Discipline, mesh with the evidence of the sparse ruins and the overall surroundings.

The cliffs looming above us to the west constituted the overwhelming reality for the members of the community. The harsh wilderness physically and symbolically blocked out Jerusalem, and was an expression of purity. On this stony crust between cliffs and a dead lake, where rain was rare, vegetation sparse and the heat pressed down like an iron lid, where one's energy was devoted to survival, this community attempted to live by religious and communal ideals that transcended personal goals, desires and needs.

The water channel snaking down from the cliffs to the settlement, for example, and the numerous cisterns and water conduits within the settlement, show the high degree of skill and cooperation utilized to develop a system which tapped the seasonal floods plummeting from the high hills.

From the central observation tower we can see the remains of the pottery workshop, where the jugs that protected the scrolls were probably shaped. Workshops also produced other crafts that supported the self-sustaining community. To the south, near the green line of vegetation at Ein Fash'ha, the Essenes tended date groves and other crops. Turning east, we see



Qumran National Park: If we linger until late in the day, we can watch the dusk settling as the Essenes did. They chanted and studied in isolation in the stillness of the wilderness.

(Ariel Jerozolimski)

the cemetery which held about a thousand graves, dug over a period of perhaps 150-200 years. There are few females, confirming the existence of a community composed largely of single, celibate males.

Significantly, there is no trace of sleeping quarters; evidently the members slept in tents or huts outside the perimeter of the main settlement, or perhaps in low-lying caves. The sprinkling of sanctal nails found along the paths leading to the caves indicates regular foot traffic.

If we linger until late in the day, we can watch the dusk settling as the Essenes did, watch the hawks arcing near the cliffs, the shifting

hues of the mountains beyond the Dead Sea and their reflection in the water. They could see the moonlight illuminate every boulder, and absorbed their observations of the stars into their cosmology. They chanted and studied in isolation, sinking into the engulfing stillness of the wilderness, then gathered for prayer, study, meals and work.

Their daily regimen, the signs of which can be found in the ruins around us, followed Jewish ritual and law, yet simultaneously set this community apart as "the true community of Israel" (as one scroll phrased it) as opposed to the "habitation of unjust men."

We see the kitchen, for example,

where the communal meals were prepared, meals which became part of a "spiritual temple" and a substitute for sacrifices. The tefillin worn during morning prayers (Qumran has yielded the oldest ones ever found) might vary in the texts they encased. Sundials found indicate that, using a solar calendar, the Qumran dates for festivals differed from those of the normative Jewish lunar calendar. And there was daily immersion before the communal meal, in the mikve, the remnants of which are still standing. This regular immersion, associated with the expiation of sin, has led some scholars to link the sect to John the Baptist.

The heart of Qumran beat in the central building which abuts the stone observation tower. Based on the bits of pens, broken writing tables and ostraca found here, it appears that the Dead Sea Scrolls were written here, in an upper-story scriptorium, attached to a reading room, classroom and library. Stand here and picture the scribes and students hunched over writing desks day after day, pouring their hearts into what they considered their holy work. Here they copied the books of the Bible (only the scroll of Esther is missing from the finds, but a complete copy of Isaiah was among the first discoveries), and wrote commentaries, codes of behavior, scathing criticisms of the Temple ritual, and the document detailing an apocalyptic vision of a war between the "sons of light" and the "sons of darkness."

And what were sect members thinking when they rolled and bound the scrolls, wrapped them in linen, placed them in jugs, and stored them in a series of caves?

These are the questions we ask ourselves as we walk southwards, to look across a ravine at two of the caves which held scrolls. Carved out of the soft sedimentary bank, these are the only man-made caves in the area. Why were they cut here, close to the settlement, when there are so many natural caves among the cliffs? No one knows.

And were the scrolls simply stored there, or were they hidden from the Roman legions advancing toward Ein Gedi and Masada? And if the scrolls were hidden, was the hiding an act of desperation or defiance?

Perhaps the members hiding these scrolls felt they were abandoning their life's work. Did they think they would return?

Or did they suspect that the scrolls would remain there for centuries after they and their settlement had disappeared? They couldn't have known that these scrolls — testimony to the richness, the divisiveness, the range of thought of first-century Judea — would lie in these caves for 2,000 years, to be found as another sovereign Jewish state was about to be born.

In an ironic juxtaposition, on the

same November day in 1947 that — purchased by Professor E.L. Sukenik of the Hebrew University — some of these 2,000-year-old Jewish scrolls returned to Jewish hands, the UN passed the resolution approving the creation of a Jewish state.

Qumran National Park, an easy drive from Jerusalem, is also accessible by public transportation. Winter hours are 8-4 daily, 8-2 on Friday. Tel. (02) 994-2235.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide.

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NIS 200 (including lunch)
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The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

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Weekender Leisure

Something old to something new

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

When a colleague, who is soon to be married abroad, asked me to recommend some bridal salons, one of my first comments to her was that I didn't envy her taking a wedding dress in her luggage and having to get it pressed later.

I remember when I went to Australia a couple of years ago for my cousin's wedding, how carefully her gown had been transported from the dressmaker's studio to her home only 10 minutes' drive away, and how quickly it was hung to ensure that it would be in perfect condition for the great day.

Because my colleague has only a few days at her disposal between the time she arrives in the US and the day of her wedding, she is reluctant to buy a gown there in case it requires time-consuming alterations. On the other hand, prices in New York are often a lot lower than those in Israel.

My suggestion to her was to try on gowns here to see what suits her, and once she knows what style looks best on her, she will waste far less time trying on other gowns in New York. And because there are half sizes in America, she may not require alterations at all.

"But I know what I want," she said. "Knowing what you want and finding what suits you is not exactly the same thing," I countered.

Most of us have fixed visions of ourselves as brides, and unless we are extremely wealthy, there's quite a gap between the dream and the reality. Moreover, our bridal images start to take shape when we're as young as three or four. By the time we do get married, our bodies have changed and sometimes so have our tastes and our attitudes.

While some brides feel that a wedding dress is so special that it is worth anything they can afford, others say that because a wedding dress is worn only once, it's a waste to spend a lot of money on it.

In Israel, because most apartments tend to be small and have limited storage space, many brides prefer to rent a gown, even though the difference in the cost between renting and buying is often minimal. Even so, there are many brides who want to keep this precious reminder of one of the most important days in their lives. Some brides, however, would prefer to have a dress that can be easily adapted for post-wedding use rather than simply confining it to mothballs.

There are several factors to take into account if the bride wants to get maximum value out of the dress. Unless she doesn't mind making white her formal color, she should choose a gown in a fabric which lends itself to dyeing. The design should not be too elaborate and should include either a jacket or a detachable skirt.

A long, slim-fitting dress with a belted overskirt is one versatile solution. The overskirt can later serve as a cape. Alternately, if the bride wants to show off her figure and doesn't want a full skirt, a matching long-sleeved jacket will give the dress a completely different look. If the dress is sleeveless or strapless, the jacket can be worn for the bridal ceremony and removed afterwards. Silk taffeta jackets in different colors and styles can enhance the gown on future occasions.

It's rare for a bride to go shopping for a gown without a relative or friend in tow, and while their advice may often be valuable, remember it's not their wedding, it's hers. If the bride-to-be really has her heart set on something, she should not let anyone else talk her out of it unless she's genuinely convinced that it doesn't flatter her at all.

A good idea would be to take a Polaroid camera along so the bride can be photographed, back and front, in order to see her non-mirror image. Another option is to take an ordinary camera. The prints can be developed within an hour, and the bride can then return to the salon after she's seen the photos.



Bridge

The Power of Eights

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North		East	
♠ K Q		♠ 9 6 3	
♥ A 10 6 3		♥ 9	
♦ J 2		♦ A K 9 7 4	
♣ K Q J 8 3		♣ 10 9 6 5	

South		West	
♠ A J 10 4		♠ 8 7 5 2	
♥ Q 4 2		♥ K J 8 7 5	
♦ 8 6 5 3		♦ Q 10	
♣ A 4		♣ 7 2	

Opening lead: ♦ Q

Often a player will buttonhole me with a memorable bridge hand. "I picked up a hand with eight solid spades, etc." Almost inevitably, the hand includes some long, strong suit. Indeed, most hands at the table are remembered for their powerful strength or distribution, while the less-obvious beauty of the game is often forgotten — lowly spotcards that late in the hand can play a subtle yet crucial role. Sometimes a contract appears to have no chance, but then suddenly a spotcard saves the day, shedding its light in what otherwise would have been a bridge player's darkest moment. Sometimes the reverse is true.

A good example of this Hanukkah-type scenario is this week's deal. Suppose you were the declarer in the North seat in a contract of three notrump.

This is the normal contract if North opens the bidding one notrump and South uses Stayman, then places the contract in three notrump. The opening lead against you is the king of diamonds from the East seat, and all seems lost. But then suddenly the 10 of diamonds appears under the king. On the ace of diamonds, which is led at trick two, the queen of diamonds appears as you follow with the jack. Then the nine of diamonds is cashed, and, lo and behold, the eight of diamonds in dummy is now high. You make 10

tricks! (Of course, if East leads a low diamond at trick one, three notrump will be defeated.) When the deal was actually played (this past August in Winnipeg, in the Canadian Women's Team Championship), the real North-South in our diagram were Marylou Bert (North) and June Pocock (South). They avoided the three-notrump contract and reached instead the unusual contract of four spades on a four-two trump fit. Normally an eight-card fit is recommended for a trump suit, and sometimes a seven-card fit is satisfactory. But for the declaring side to hold fewer trumps than the defenders is almost never seen. Yet the bidding was logical. After the one-club opening bid by North, East overcalled one diamond and South bid one spade. North reversed to two hearts and South, without strong support for either of his partner's suits and without a diamond stopper, bid three diamonds, asking her partner to bid three notrump if she held a diamond stopper. North supported spades instead (with the king-queen doubleton) and South placed the contract in game.

West led the queen of diamonds, and it appeared to declarer that she was about to achieve a great result. If the defense continued diamonds, she could ruff the third round in dummy with the queen of spades, cash the king of spades, return to hand with the ace of clubs, draw the trumps (assuming they broke 4-3) and run the club suit. That would result in 11 tricks! But the power of an eight-spot this time worked against her, snuffing out her happiest dream come true.

East overtook the queen of diamonds with the king on the first trick and switched to the 10 of clubs. This strange play planted a worried thought in the mind of declarer: East must have the singleton 10 of clubs. With this in mind, declarer won the trick with the ace of clubs, cashed four rounds of spades, and led the four of clubs toward dummy's K-Q-J-8. When West followed low, declarer put in dummy's 8, playing West for an original holding of 9-7-6-5-2. East won her nine of clubs and cashed two more diamond tricks to set the contract. It was a terrible ending for declarer, but the good news was that her team won the event and she was left with an exciting story to tell her grandchildren.

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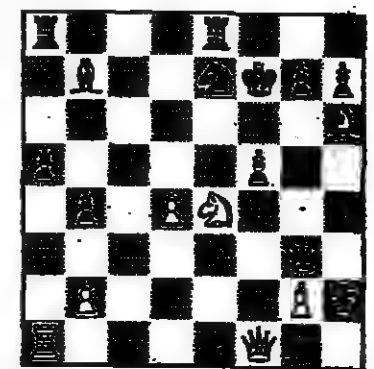
Chess

A flawed genius

By NIGEL SHORT

Exactly why I should wish to do a favor to publishers who never send me review copies is beyond me, but *Fire on Board*, by Alexei Shirov, is quite the best chess book I have seen this year. Shirov (an ethnic Russian from Latvia who is married to an Argentinian and resides in Spain) is a brilliant tactician with a phenomenal imagination. His genius is flawed however — a stubborn adherence to dubious opening variations being one of his weaknesses — and so few people imagine him living up to his original promise. Still his raw talent, while perhaps not giving Kasparov too many sleepless nights, is amply sufficient to overcome most players; for instance, he has simply crushed me on the last four occasions we met.

This early game shows him at his aggressive best.



White: Shirov
Black: Nikolenko
Moscow, 1991
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. a5 Nf8 5. Nce2. Enabling White to support his pawn chain with c3. The drawback is that the move

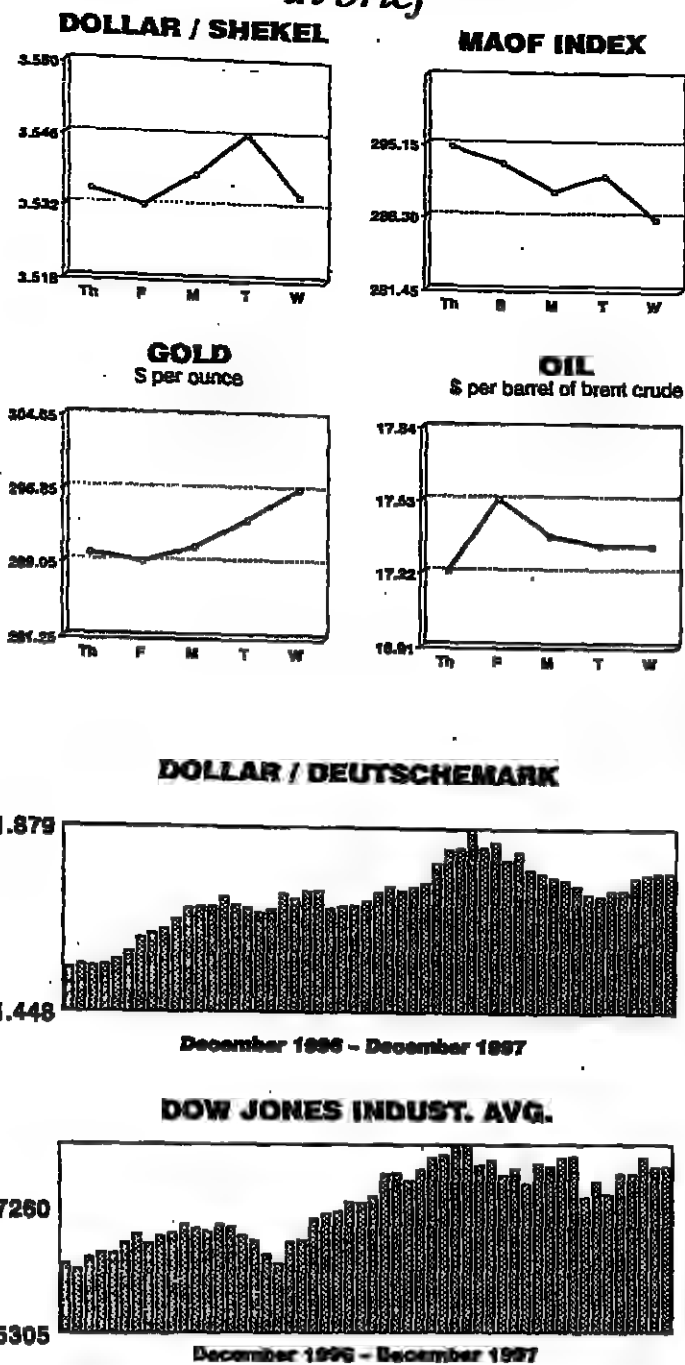
obstructs his development and thus is time-consuming. 5...c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. f4 b5 8. a3 a5? 9. Qxd4! 9...Nxd4 10. Qxd4? was the continuation in a later Shirov game against Bareev, but I guess most normal human beings would have correctly preferred the pawn capture. 9. Nc3 b4 10. axb4 cxb4 11. f5! Energetic and precise. 11...exf5 12. Nf4 Nb6 13. Bb5 Bb7 14. e6. The logical consequence of White's 11th move. The Black king will be come exposed. 14...Bd6 15. exf7+ Kxf7 16. 0-0 Re8 17. Nxd5! Bam 17...Bxb2+! Responding well to the challenge. The obvious capture of the knight would have succumbed to a sacrificial onslaught. 17...Nxd5 18. Ng5+ Kg6 19. Qh5 h6 20. Qf7+ Kh8 21. Qxb7 19. Rxf5!! Kxf5 20. Bd3+ Kf6 21. Qf3+ Nf4 22. Bxf4 with a devastating attack. 18. Kxh2 Qxd5 19. e4! Not wasting any time by retreating. 19...Nxe4 20. Ng5+ Kg6 21. Bxc4 Qxc4 22. Qf3 Rf8? It is only here that the decisive mistake happens. It was still possible to defend with 22...Ne7! when Alexei intended 23. Qg3 Qxf1 24. Ne4+ Kf7 25. Bb6. See diagram.

This looks fairly promising until one considers 25...Qf4!! (found by Fritz 4, and liable to be overlooked by carbon-based players) after which the game is unclear, e.g., 26. Bxf4 Bxc4 27. Be5 Rg8. 23. Qg3! The threatened discovered check is worth a rook. 23...Qxf1 24. Ne6+ Kf7 25. d5! Rg8 26. Qc7+ Kg6 27. dxc6 Bc8 A sad necessity. 28. Nf4+ Kf6 29. Qd6+ Kf7 30. Qd5+ Kf8 31. Be3! If the queen now captures the rook on a1, then 32. Be5+ leads to mate next move.

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MARKETS

in brief



Candle sales up 20%

Some 170 million Israeli candles were sold in the build up to Hanukkah, according to the Manufacturers Association. This figure represents a 20 percent increase on last year's total. Receipts from sales will total an estimated NIS 8 million to NIS 10m. The association said the latest batch of candles are of a superior quality to previous years. The industry employs 200 people.

David Harris

12% rise in rail passengers

The number of rail passengers in November totaled 530,000, a 12 percent rise on the equivalent figure last year, said a statement from Israel Railways. The authority expects the number of rail users to pass the six million mark this year - the fifth consecutive year in which the overall figure has increased. The key increases in usage have been on the Tel Aviv-Rehovot-Ashtod and Haifa area routes.

David Harris

Diamond exports to Asia fall by \$600m.

Diamond bourse to close Fridays due to industry crisis

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Diamond exports to Southeast Asia fell recently by 30-40 percent, which will translate into a loss of more than \$600 million on an annual basis, Tzafir Anbar, the diamond controller in the Ministry of Industry and Trade said yesterday.

According to figures the Ministry of Industry and Trade published, exports of polished diamonds in 1996 amounted to a gross \$5.3 billion, which is about 25% of the total value of Israeli goods exported.

Industry sources say that tumbling currencies, higher interest rates and slower economic growth in Southeast Asia and an economic slowdown in Japan are expected to lead to a sharp decline in diamond exports next year.

The decrease in sales to Southeast

Asia have had a negative impact on the cash flow of the whole diamond industry because the Asian customers usually pay in cash.

"My Asian customers who paid the cash were making up for the American clients who buy on credit," said one trader. "The fact that the cash flows have slowed makes the banks nervous, which in turn hurts the whole industry."

Diamond dealers complained that exports to the Far East, which account for 40% of the world diamond sales, fell dramatically during the last three months.

"The mood in Asia is negative and nobody wants to buy luxury products now," said one diamond trader. Anbar said that exports to Japan have been falling gradually since the end of last year.

"During the last few months the decline in exports to Japan increased

by 10% each month," he said.

Exports of polished diamonds to Japan, which until recently represented 16-17% of total exports, plunged 59% in November to only \$26m., compared with \$63m. in the same period in 1996. During the first 11 months of the year, exports fell 25% to \$481m. from \$641m. in the January-November period last year.

Exports to Hong Kong, the second-largest importer in Asia, fell 50% in November to \$28m. from \$57m. in the same month last year. During the first 11 months of 1997, exports to Hong Kong actually rose to \$651m. from \$615m. a year ago. The rise is mainly attributed to a sharp rise in the first months of the year.

Anbar said that losses were partly offset by a rise in exports to the US, which currently imports

almost 55% of the Israeli output.

Industry sources said that stocks are rising and prices are decreasing. The Israel Diamond Manufacturers Association said yesterday that the situation has worsened because of the Asian turmoil. The association said that during the last year 2,000 workers left the industry, raising the number of layoffs during the last several years to 7,000.

The association said that the closing of many manufacturing plants led to the "shrinking of the industry to worrying levels." It should be noted, however, that manufacturers were closing plants before the Asian crisis and moving them to East Asian countries where workers get lower wages.

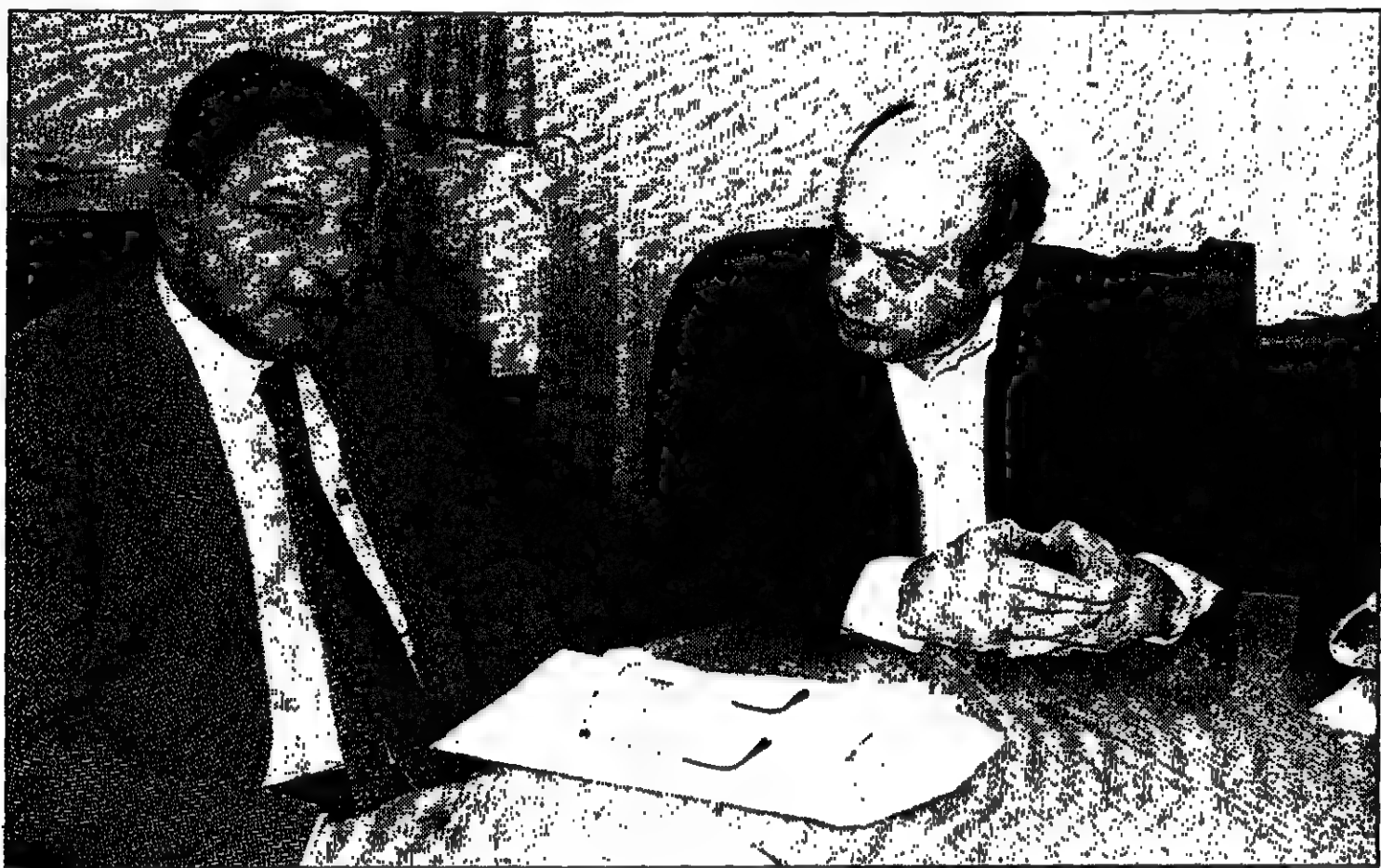
In a statement, the executive committee of the association recommended that manufacturers

close plants on Fridays and shorten workdays. In addition, from now on the diamond exchange will close its trading hall on Fridays.

The economic slowdown in Asia is felt all over the diamond industry. Last week the world's leading diamond organization, De Beers, said that second-half 1997 sales of its uncut diamonds slumped 16% to \$1.76 billion compared with the same period last year, amid the Asian crisis. De Beers described the difference between the first and second halves of the year as a "dramatic contrast."

Industry sources predict that the situation will worsen next year with diamond exports falling further and leading to higher losses.

"We don't predict that the situation will improve in the near term or next year," Anbar said.



Palestinian Authority Trade and Economic Affairs Minister Maher Elmatzri (left) speaks to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday in Sharansky's office.

PA rejects proposal for joint industrial zone

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority Trade and Economic Affairs Minister Maher Elmatzri yesterday rejected an Israeli proposal to set up a joint administration to run Palestinian and Israeli industrial zones in the West Bank.

"We know Israel's intention is to confiscate more land in the West Bank and appropriate it to the set-

lements for industrial expansion and that is why we rejected their offer," Elmatzri said, adding that the existence of industrial zones in areas under Palestinian control are of no concern to Israel and are the PA's sole responsibility.

On Tuesday, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky suggested to Elmatzri that Israel and the PA collaborate on establishing trade zones that would encompass Jewish and Arab areas in the West

Bank, ministry spokeswoman Chaya Perry said. Sharansky told Elmatzri such a zone could be created around Ariel and Nablus because of their close proximity.

During the meeting, the two ministers also discussed the Karmi Industrial Park. Perry said, Elmatzri expressed his satisfaction at the way discussions were developing and said he hoped that the security issues relating to the park's establishment will be

solved soon. The Karmi park is scheduled to open within the next few months.

Elmatzri added that discussions between the two sides concerning the park will continue. A special committee will take part in the discussions and will be headed by Palestinian official Adnan Samaram, he said.

Sharansky's aide Roman Polansky called the Palestinian's decision regrettable.

ABSE banking group to operate in Israel

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The South African banking group ABSE intends to start operating in the Israeli capital market, its local subsidiary said yesterday. The ABSE group includes South Africa's four largest commercial

banks: Allied Bank; Trust Bank; United Bank; and Volkskas Bank. Other members include Bankfin, Mib Bank and Cutfin.

In a statement, Giuseppe Cuicci, CEO of ABSE's subsidiary ABSE Offshore (Jersey), said that the bank decided to enter Israel

because the Israeli economy offers business opportunities to international financial bodies.

"This is a growing market and we recognize high potential for business activity," he said.

The company recently took control of Israeli company Nexus Management, which offers services to foreign investors.

"It's the biggest banking group in South Africa, with total assets of \$30 billion," said Colin Shachat, managing director of Nexus Management.

He said that the group started its international activity recently following the relaxation of exchange controls in South Africa. The group made acquisitions in seven countries - the US, England, Germany, Hong Kong, Man Islands, China and Singapore.

Shachat said that the company is looking to get involved in asset management. He added that in the long run the group would also be interested in investment banking, putting deals together and financing.

He also said that changes in the investment law are discouraging investors from investing in Israel.

Last year the government cut investment aid grants from 34% to 24% in the periphery.

In order to return the economy to 5%-6% growth, Proper said that the government and the Bank of Israel should decrease public spending, increase the size of the grants offered to investors, continue privatizing, increase competition by breaking up monopolies and take measures to lower interest rates while safeguarding exports' profitability.

Propper also said that the economy should be ready to tolerate 10% inflation.

Bankers Trust affiliate buys 11% stake in Kardan project

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

FIC Globe, an affiliate of Bankers Trust, will purchase a 10.7 percent stake in a Polish real estate corporation jointly owned by Kardan Real Estate, a subsidiary of Kardan Ltd., and an undisclosed Dutch concern, Kardan Ltd. recently announced in a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

According to the announcement, the Polish entity will sell the shares to US-based FIC Globe in exchange for \$12 million.

Kardan said it expects to post a net profit of NIS 8m. as a result of the transaction.

Bankers Trust said it would offer the Polish company \$5m. over the next five years. If the company takes the loan during the next three years, Bankers Trust can exchange the loan for shares.

If Bankers Trust converts the total amount of the available loan

to shares, FIC Globe's and Bankers Trust's stake in the Polish company would total 16.67%.

The agreement stipulates that FIC Globe has the right to participate in Kardan Real Estate's property investments in Eastern Europe.

Kardan entered the Polish market four years ago and now has several projects in Warsaw, including office buildings, commercial centers and housing complexes.

Kardan is currently planning more projects, a source close to the company said.



Ben-Gurion 2000 Project Public Tender Supply of Construction Materials

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby requests separate proposals for the supply of materials for the new Ben-Gurion 2000 Project.

1. Tender No. F3020033 Supply of Toilet Accessories
2. Tender No. F3030034 Supply of Ceramic Tiles
3. Tender No. F3040035 Supply of Toilet Fixtures
4. Tender No. F3050036 Supply of Hardware for Doors and Frames

Proposal Pre-conditions:

1. Bidder must be registered in Israel or recognized as a legal entity in its country of origin.
2. Bidder is an authorized representative of the manufacturer(s) of the product(s) it proposes in its proposal.
3. Bidder has a minimum of five (5) years' experience in the supply of the construction related products.
4. Bidder's annual average gross revenue in the supply of construction-related materials during the last three (3) years is a minimum of one million US dollars (\$1,000,000).
5. Bidder has successfully fulfilled and completed a minimum of two (2) purchase orders, each of a minimum value of one hundred thousand US dollars (\$100,000) during the last three (3) years.
6. Bidder must also provide, as part of the proposal, a bank guarantee in the amount stated in the respective tender documents.

Proposal Documents. Tender documents may be obtained until the date specified below against a non-refundable payment of five thousand shekels (NIS 5000) inclusive of Value Added Tax, for Tenders F3020033, F3030034, and F3050036. Tender documents for Tender F3040035 may be obtained until time of bid against a non-refundable payment of two thousand five hundred shekels (NIS 2500), inclusive of Value Added Tax. Tender documents are available by contacting the Project Management Firm (PMF), Contracts Administrator, Mr. Amnon Yehoshpe at telephone number 972-3-977-4454.

Prior to purchase of tender documents, bidders may review their content and proposal pre-conditions at the location and during the times indicated above. All qualifying proposals should be delivered in sealed envelopes not later than 10 a.m. local time on January 11, 1998 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority Main Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 113, Ben-Gurion International Airport, Israel.

The IAA is not bound to accept the lowest proposal or any other proposal whatsoever.

Israel Ports and Railways Authority Request for Information

CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATIONS SYSTEMS SOFTWARE

The Israel Ports and Railways Authority ("PRA") is interested in receiving information from prospective suppliers of Terminal Operations System Software for use in Haifa and/or Ashdod Ports in Israel.

The information should include:

1. A description of the software system features and modules, including the system's hardware and software topology.
2. A list of terminals using the potential supplier's system, including:
 - a. Most recent annual throughput (in boxes and TEU) at each terminal;
 - b. Number of shipping lines served by each terminal;
 - c. Container stacking equipment employed at each terminal;
 - d. Contact Name at the terminal, including telephone and fax.
3. An indication of the general range of prices for the system/modules.

Please send the information, no later than March 1, 1998 to:

Mr. Amir Haidar, Chief Information Officer
Israel Ports and Railways Authority
74 Petach Tikva Road, Tel Aviv, Israel 67215
Fax: +972-3-565-7046, E-Mail: Amirhaid@israports.org.il

This Request for Information does not constitute the solicitation of tenders from prospective suppliers in any manner whatsoever. The PRA retains the full right to procure or not to procure any such system or part thereof in accordance with its internal regulations and the appropriate laws. The PRA enters into no obligations in any form with regard to the receipt of any such information. All expenses relating to the supply of information, including the cost of returning any materials, shall be borne by the prospective supplier.

Reading between the lines...
you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



PRIME פריים	
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents	
Date:	23.12.97
Purchase Price:	118.37
Redemption Price:	116.84
LEUMI PIA	
A Member of Bank Leumi Group	

TARGET טרגט	
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents	
Date:	23.12.97
Purchase Price:	127.85
Redemption Price:	126.02
LEUMI PIA	
A Member of Bank Leumi Group	

DRIVE CAREFULLY

TASE falls after declines in NY, Asia

Tel Aviv

Stocks closed down following declines on Wall Street yesterday and a day after a Tadiran Ltd. subsidiary said weakness in Asian markets will push down fourth-quarter net income and sales.

The Maof Index of 25 stocks lost 1.42 percent to 287.95. The Mishnam Index of 100 most-traded stocks slipped 1.4 percent to 275.74. The Tel Aviv Continuous Trading Index dropped 1.61 percent to 92.14.

"The market follows New York very closely," said Moshe Jonas, who runs Moritz & Tuchler's Jerusalem office.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 1.63 percent yesterday over concern that the financial crisis in East Asia will hurt US profits. Jonas said the Asian concern will also begin to affect the Tel Aviv market.

"Clearly the companies and the market will realize that the crisis there has some effect on the rest of the world."

Zvi Hoffman, co-managing director at Meitav Ltd., said that if the crisis in Asia continues, "there is no doubt that other Israeli companies will announce reductions of forecasts for 1998."

Europe

UK stocks fell, led by banks such as Barclays Plc and Lloyds TSB Group Plc, after US stocks tumbled on concern South Korea may default on its foreign debts.

"You still have question marks over the Far East," said Simon Smith, a fund manager at Albert E. Sharp, with about 4.5 billion pounds (\$7.5 billion) in assets. "The financial system is in turmoil, and the question is will their exporters be dumping products in Europe and the UK?"

The FT-SE 100 Index declined 35.9 points, or 0.71 percent, to 5013.9, with Barclays falling 25 pence to 158.5. Lloyds dropping 13p to 74.8 and Halifax Plc sliding 15p to 75.8. The market closed early at 12:30 p.m. for the Christmas holiday.

Retailers fell after Knickerbox Ltd. was put into administration following disappointing December sales, further evidence of lower-than-expected retail sales this Christmas.

"A major risk is that events in the Far East have a greater-than-expected ripple effect," said John Hatherly, head of research at M&G Ltd., which has 10 billion pounds in equities. "Most people seem to be optimistic in the UK

STOCKS

Maof 287.95 ▼ 1.42%
Dow Jones 7691 ▼ 0.41%
FTSE 5013.9 ▼ 0.71%
Nikkei 14924.98 ▲ 0.85%

but its worthwhile asking what are the risks."

Investors are concerned more bad news will come out of Asia during the Christmas holiday period, when UK investors will be unable to react.

Still, many analysts are optimistic on the outlook for UK stocks. "The story on direct exposure (to Asia) has been done to death," said Mark Gardner, a fund adviser at Julius Baer Investments, which controls about \$41 billion.

"There's not that much of a direct connection." In fact, "people are seeing the UK as a bit of a safe

haven. We're looking forward to a good year," he said.

Asia

Japanese stocks rose, led by electronics makers such as Sony Corp., as investors targeted exporters with global operations, hoping a weaker yen will give them a pricing edge in overseas markets.

Banks fell amid concern they'll take a hit if the plummeting South Korean won sparks loan defaults. Investors are also staying clear of sectors such as steel and construction, amid concern about the weakness of Japan's economy.

"Institutional investors don't have much choice besides the blue chips," said Shinichi Nomo, a general manager at Yamatane Investment Management Co., who helps to manage 10 billion yen (\$76.9 million).

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 125.58 points, or 0.85 percent, to 14,924.98. The bank-heavy Topix index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange rose 4.59 points, or 0.41 percent, to 1134.59.

Electronics and auto exporters gained as the yen weakened, enabling them to price their products more competitively. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks edged lower yesterday in lifeless trading as investors played it safe during an abbreviated Christmas Eve session.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 31.64 points to 7,660.13 after surrendering an early 48-point gain, trimming the year's gain to 18.8 percent.

Most broad-market indicators also turned lower after an early round of bargain hunting on Tuesday's late afternoon.

But with the US market closing early — and closed today for Christmas — many players chose to take a five-day weekend, and those who didn't weren't taking many chances in such a thinly traded session.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by an 8-to-7 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,258 up, 1,443 down and 598 unchanged. NYSE volume totaled 263.31 million shares at the 1 p.m. closing bell, vs. 293.20 million at the same point on Tuesday.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock list fell 6.43 to 932.70, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 10.38 to 1,499.53, slipping below 1,500 for the first time since July.

Dollar little changed in pre-holiday trading

The dollar was little changed yesterday against major currencies as markets in Europe closed early and trading desks in New York were short-staffed ahead of the Christmas holidays.

The US currency is expected to rise against the yen in coming days, many traders said, given the still cloudy outlook for many Asian economies, currencies and stock markets.

"There's still concern about what's happening in Korea and about Japan's own fragile banking system," said Robert Katz, a trader at MTB Bank. "That will direct the dollar higher."

The dollar rose to 129.95 yen yesterday from 129.65 late Tuesday in New York. It was little changed at 1.7731 marks from 1.7745 Tuesday.

In South Korea, stocks tumbled for a third day amid concern soaring interest rates will make it more difficult for companies struggling with heavy debts to pay them off. Stocks in Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines also fell. South Korean three-year benchmark corporate bond yields are 30 percent, close to a record 31.11 percent. So far this year, 68 publicly traded companies have become insolvent.

"With the current interest rate, I expect at least 80 more [listed] companies could topple in the next six months," said Lee Jae Yul, a

trader at Seoul Securities Co. in Seoul.

Dollar 3.534 ▼ 0.06%
Basket 3.7976 ▲ 0.03%
Mark 1.9923 ▲ 0.14%
Sterling 5.8965 ▲ 0.1%

trader at Seoul Securities Co. in Seoul.

Platinum rises as supply seen limited

Precious metals

Platinum rose to its highest price for eight days as a drop in consumption in Japan, the world's largest market for the precious metal, isn't expected to be enough to undermine expectations that global demand will outstrip supply next year. Supplies from Russia, the second-largest producer of platinum behind South Africa, dropped this year and aren't expected to recover much next year as Russia's stockpiles dwindle and its production stagnates. Platinum is mainly used to produce jewelry and as a catalyst in pollution control devices for cars.

While demand for platinum jewelry is declining in Japan, it is being offset by growth in China and the US, according to a recent report from London-based Johnson Matthey Plc, the world's largest marketer of platinum. Platinum for immediate delivery rose \$9.20, or 2.6 percent, to \$364.20 an ounce.

Gold climbed to a three-and-a-half-week high on expectations of mine closures, which would reduce supply of the precious metal, if the gold price remains below \$300 an ounce. Gold for immediate delivery rose as much as \$2.70, or 0.9 percent, to a high of \$296.75 an ounce. It was traded \$2.70 higher at \$296.75 and has now gained 5.4 percent since reaching an 18-year low of \$281.35 on December 9, though it is still

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COMMODITIES

Gold \$296.15 ▲ 2.1%
Crude Oil \$17.33 no change
CRB 233.1 ▲ 1.15%

19.6% lower than it was at the end of last year.

Oil

Crude oil closed unchanged

after a weekly inventory report issued by the American Petroleum Institute showed a decline in US crude oil supplies. Half of the drop in supplies was in region west of the Rocky Mountains. Refinery storage tanks in the region, which hold about a fifth of the nation's total supplies, are less important to traders because the area isn't connected to the rest of the US by pipelines. Changes in stockpile levels there don't normally concern traders as much as in other regions where supplies can be easily moved. February Brent futures closed unchanged at \$17.33 a barrel, near a two-year low.

In Singapore, the contract rose 10 cents to close at \$17.87 a barrel. In New York, the comparable contract was 1 cent up in electron-

ic access trade at \$18.34 a barrel.

Others

Coffee rose 1 percent amid concern the world's growers won't be able to meet rising demand for coffee in the current crop year ending September 30, 1998. Both the US Department of Agriculture and Germany-based commodities statistician F.O. Licht have issued forecasts in the last week showing rising demand will exceed supply this year. Coffee for March delivery rose \$17, or 1 percent, to \$1.687 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange. (Bloomberg)

US Bonds fall on hopes Asia may stabilize

US bonds fell yesterday for the first time in five days after Korea said it can pay its immediate debts and will get \$10 billion in international aid sooner than expected, damping demand for the safety of US assets.

"The news that the bailouts are being lined up means maybe we're getting to the end of the immediate crisis" in Asian financial markets, said Livingston Douglas, who helps manage

\$1.3b. at Kiewit Investment Management Corp. in Omaha, Nebraska.

He hasn't bought or sold Treasuries lately and said yields could climb in coming weeks.

"It may be that the flight-to-quality trade is coming to an end," Douglas said.

The benchmark 30-year bond fell 13/32, or \$4.06 per \$1,000 bond, to 103 4/32, raising its yield 3 basis points to 5.90 percent. The

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield
5.9 ▲ 0.03

yield on the two-year note rose 1 basis point to 5.65 percent.

The news from Korea is "hurting" US bonds by alleviating a little of the stress in Asia, said Andrew Brenner, head of global fixed-income trading at Fintat USA Inc. Bond yields fell more than half a percentage point in the past two months, to the lowest in more than four years, as investors parked money in relatively safe US assets to escape tumbling

Asian markets.

Many also see Asia's economic slowdown chopping half a percentage point or more off US growth next year — good for Treasuries because it will likely keep inflation at bay. Inflation eases into the value of bonds' principal and fixed payments. The consumer price index rose at an annual rate of 1.8 percent in the year's first 11 months, the slowest in a decade. (Bloomberg)

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

The budget package is meant to include an overall cut of NIS 2.3b., but on Tuesday Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman withdrew a proposal to cut child benefits payments by NIS 500m. under pressure from coalition MKs.

The Treasury yesterday issued a

statement saying it is looking for alternative ways to make the cut.

"The Treasury is against any tax hike as a replacement for the cut in [child] benefits and adds there is absolutely no foundation to the reports that say we are considering raising taxes," its statement says.

Meanwhile, the coalition yesterday canceled its paired voting agreement with three opposition MKs.

CHRISTMAS

Continued from Page 1

The Tourism Ministry yesterday denied a statement by Suha Arafat that Israel was delaying tourists' entry to Bethlehem, stressing that tourists are free to enter the town by private or public vehicle.

In Nazareth yesterday, thousands of celebrants took part in the annual Christmas procession, led

by scouts, schoolchildren, and clergy. Christmas Eve mass was recited in 10 churches throughout the city, with the main observance at the Basilica of the Annunciation.

Last night in Jerusalem, President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, lit Hanukkah candles with 350 international cooperation trainees from 60 countries and the Palestinian Authority. The event, which also marked

Christmas and the upcoming month of Ramadan, was held at the Park Plaza Hotel.

At the Vatican, meanwhile, in a joyous Christmas message to the world, Pope John Paul II hailed the Jews as the people who gave Jesus to all mankind.

His gesture during midnight Mass carried a special resonance, coming the day after a Hanukkah candle was lit at the Vatican for the first time in history.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.11.97)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.000	5.750	6.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.825	5.750	6.000
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.250	2.375	2.875
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.825	1.000
Yen (¥10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (24.12.97)

CURRENCY	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.7848	3.8256	—	—	3.7876
U.S. dollar	3.5032	3.5598	3.44	3.51	3.5340
German mark	1.9751	2.0070	1.94	2.04	1.9823
Pound sterling	5.8950	5.9495	5.75	6.04	5.8965
French franc	0.5902	0.5998	0.58	0.61	0.5853
Japanese yen (¥100)	2.7014	2.7450	2.65	2.78	2.7283
Dutch guilder	1.7527	1.7810	1.72	1.81	1.7681
Swiss franc	2.4437	2.4832	2.40	2.52	2.4641
Swedish krona	0.4508	0.4581	0.44	0.47	0.4547
Norwegian krona	0.4818	0.4884	0.47	0.50	0.4859
Denmark krone	0.5183	0.5267	0.50	0.54	0.5230
Finnish mark	0.6518	0.6624	0.64	0.68	0.6575
Australian dollar	2.4384	2.4757	2.39	2.52	2.4574
Canadian dollar	2.3034	2.3406	0.65	0.74	0.7271
S. African rand	0.7201	0.7318	0.94	0.99	0.9658
Belgian franc (¥10)	0.9573	0.9726	2.75	2.80	2.8316
Austrian schilling (¥10)	2.8508	2.8821	1.97	2.08	2.0282
Italian lire (¥100)	2.0111	2.0436	4.88	5.22	5.0006
Japanese yen (¥100)	4.9481	5.0280	0.99	1.08	1.0072
Spanish peseta (¥100)	3.9090	3.9689	—	—	3.9381
Irish punt	5.0667	5.1485	4.97	5.22	5.1091
Portuguese escudo (¥100)	2.3344	2.3721	2.29	2.41	2.3531

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

WHERE TO GO

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Arnona, 9 Leab Yaffe, 673-1901; Baitan, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Adawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gviri, 548-2040; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; Tel Aviv Medical Center, Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery); Netanya: Laniado.
POLICE 100
FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101
Magen David Adam
In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:
Ashdod 651-133, Kir Saver 892-2222, Ashdod 651-133, Netanya 991-2333, Beer Sheva 627-6767, Netanya 894-4444, Ben Shimon 626-133, Petach Tikva 611-1111, Ben Shimon 573-3333, Rehovot 945-1333.
DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (Internal, ENT); Shaare Zedek (Surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics, ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center, Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).
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Merkazim, 6 Masaki (con. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-6472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Hatzit, 667-0458. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Arnona, 9 Leab Yaffe, 673-1901; Baitan, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Adawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gviri, 548-2040; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; Tel Aviv Medical Center, Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery); Netanya: Laniado.
POLICE 100
FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101
Magen David Adam
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Ashdod 651-133, Kir Saver 892-2222, Ashdod 651-133, Netanya 991-2333, Beer Sheva 627-6767, Netanya 894-4444, Ben Shimon 626-133, Petach Tikva 611-1111, Ben Shimon 573-3333, Rehovot 945-1333.

Krayot area: Nitzan, Mordechai Namir, Nitzan Sq., Kiryat Yam, 875-1680.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit

Elar 633-2441, Haila 581-2233, Jerusalem 652-133, Tel Aviv 540-1111, Karmiel 985-444, Tiberias 679-444.
*Mobile intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Hotline for English-speakers — Crisis counseling and referrals, all ages, all problems. (02) 854-1111, toll-free 1-800-654-1111.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran — Emotional First Aid — 1201, also Jerusalem 501-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth), 546-0739.
Rishon LeZion 956-6661/2, Haila 687-2222, Beersheva 649-4333, Netanya 822-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kir Saver 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789.
Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-855-57445, 24-hour service, confidentially guaranteed.
Wizo hotlines for battered women

02-651-4111, 03-516-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0508.
Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-3819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haila 853-0533, Eilat 832-1877.
Hadassah Medical Organization — Israel Cancer Administration support service, 02-624-7678.
Flight arrivals — for information in English 03-872-3322.

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JERUSALEM
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HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thurs., 11 a.m. from

Brontman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg, Buses 34, 8, 23, 26, 28. For info, call (02) 588-2818.
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HAIFA
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial (04) 837-4253.

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Inside

Eriksson
wins for
Detroit

Page 18

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisPremiership:
Floodlight
failure was
not a betting
coup

LONDON (Reuters) - Reports linking floodlight failures to a Far East betting ring were dismissed as conjecture by the English premier league yesterday.

The Wimbledon-Arsenal match on Monday was the third premier league clash this season to be abandoned when the floodlights failed. The score at the time was 0-0.

A report in the *Daily Express* yesterday suggested a Far East gambling group was responsible for sabotaging the match.

But premier league spokesman Mike Lee said: "Currently, there is nothing that substantiates these stories." He said the evidence pointed to "technical failure."

Police are to check to see if any equipment was tampered with.

The *Express* quoted a former London spread-betting operator as saying: "This is nothing to do with gambling in this country, this is big Far East stuff."

"I was told there was no way Arsenal would be allowed to win on the night. I was told it might be another West Ham."

West Ham had pulled back from 2-0 down to draw level with Crystal Palace in November when the floodlights failed.

The operator was quoted as saying: "The bookmakers did not want a West Ham win. As soon as West Ham leveled at 2-2 the lights went out." He said syndicates target one-off matches in midweek because betting on a single game is high.

Phil Jackson quickest to reach 500-win mark

CHICAGO (AP) - Phil Jackson reached the 500-victory mark faster than any coach in NBA history as his Chicago Bulls got 27 points from Michael Jordan and a season-high 25 rebounds from Dennis Rodman to defeat the Los Angeles Clippers 94-89 Tuesday night.

Jackson got No. 500 in his 682nd game - one earlier than Pat Riley accomplished the feat.

Rodney Rogers scored 20 points and Darrick Martin 19 for the Clippers, who led for most of the night before losing for the seventh time in eight games.

Spurs 91, Pacers 79
David Robinson scored a season-high 39 points to lead host San Antonio over Indiana as the Spurs snapped the Pacers' six-game winning streak.

The Spurs won their sixth straight as Robinson and Tim Duncan dominated inside. Duncan added 18 points and 17 rebounds and Robinson pulled down 12 boards.

Indiana, which had its six-game winning streak snapped, was led by Reggie Miller with 25 points. Rik Smits added 14.

Celtics 102, Hornets 96
In Boston, Ron Mercer had career-highs of 28 points and eight rebounds as Boston's bench made up for Antoine Walker's poor shooting and led the Celtics their fourth consecutive win.

Walker, who led the Celtics in scoring in 19 of their first 24 games, shot just 3-of-21. But Dana Barros pitched in with 18 points and even Greg Minor - the last player on the Celtics' bench - scored four consecutive points in an 11-2 run that essentially decided the game.

Glen Rice had 23 points and Bobby Phills added a season-high 22 for the Hornets.

Cavaliers 99, Mavericks 85
Rookies Derek Anderson, Cedric Henderson and Brevin Knight had strong games and Cleveland outscored Dallas 32-8 in the third quarter in Cleveland.

Anderson scored a season-high 24 points, Henderson had a season-high 20 and Knight had 14 points and 15 assists for the Cavs, who sent the Mavericks to their 10th consecutive loss.

Michael Finley scored 29 for Dallas, which used an 18-7 run at the start of the fourth quarter to pull to 80-75. A steal and 15-foot jumper by Wesley Person helped Cleveland regain command.



UNSTOPPABLE - Michael Jordan drives around Darrick Martin of the LA Clippers in the Bulls' 94-89 win in Chicago on Tuesday night.

(Reuters)

Timberwolves 112, Sonics 103
In Seattle, Stephon Marbury scored 35 points, including eight 3-pointers, and Minnesota broke a record 26-game losing streak to Seattle.

Seattle's 26-game winning streak against the Timberwolves over six seasons was an NBA record by one team against another.

Gary Payton, one of the NBA's top defensive guards, was on

Marbury much of the game but couldn't stop him. Marbury made 13 of 19 shots from the field.

Trail Blazers 93, Kings 82
Host Oregon, Arvydas Sabonis had 19 points and 12 rebounds as Portland dominated inside for a victory over Sacramento.

Brian Grant added 17 points and 12 rebounds against his former team, and Kenny Anderson also scored 17. The Blazers out-

bounded the Kings 62-40, including 19 offensive boards.

Warriors 87, Nuggets 75

At Oakland, California, Donyell Marshall scored 20 points, including five during a decisive 15-0 surge, and Golden State held Denver to seven fourth-quarter points.

The seven points were a franchise low for a quarter. The Nuggets' previous low was eight points in the second quarter against Detroit on Dec. 9.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	17	8	.680	-
New York	16	11	.593	2
Orlando	16	11	.593	2
New Jersey	14	11	.560	3
Boston	13	12	.520	4
Washington	14	14	.500	4 1/2
Philadelphia	6	19	.240	11
Central Division				
Atlanta	19	8	.704	-
Chicago	17	9	.654	1 1/2
Cleveland	17	9	.654	1 1/2
Indiana	17	9	.654	1 1/2
Charlotte	18	10	.615	2 1/2
Detroit	13	15	.464	6 1/2
Milwaukee	12	14	.462	6 1/2
Toronto	3	24	.111	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	18	10	.615	-
Utah	16	10	.615	-
Houston	14	9	.608	1/2
Minnesota	12	14	.462	4
Vancouver	10	17	.370	6 1/2
Dallas	5	22	.185	11 1/2
Denver	2	23	.080	13 1/2
Pacific Division				
LA Lakers	21	6	.778	-
Seattle	21	6	.778	-
Phoenix	16	8	.667	3 1/2
Portland	15	10	.600	5
Sacramento	10	15	.357	11 1/2
Golden State	6	19	.240	14
LA Clippers	5	23	.179	16 1/2

Premier league top
three could widen gap

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United, Blackburn and Chelsea, the English premier league's three leading clubs, could put more daylight between themselves and the rest over the Christmas weekend.

United face a home match against 19th-placed Everton tomorrow and an away game against 16th-placed Coventry on Sunday, two more matches which should not trouble the pacemakers unduly.

While the depth and quality of the league champions' resources has enabled them to offset the absence of injured defenders David May and Denis Irwin, Everton's shortage of firepower is likely to be less easily overcome.

They have Duncan Ferguson suspended and Gary Speed, scorer of their goal in a 1-0 away win over Leicester last weekend, doubtful with an ankle injury sustained in training.

Blackburn, doggedly hanging on

to United's tail since their 4-0 November 30 defeat by the champions, visit Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow and entertain Crystal Palace on Sunday and will be boosted by the return of striker Chris Sutton from suspension.

Roy Hodgson's side have won their three matches since that setback to remain four points back.

Chelsea, perhaps the most logical threat to United with their host of international stars, have a slightly tougher task than the two clubs above them when they entertain mid-table Wimbledon tomorrow.

Chelsea's second match on the holiday weekend program is away to Southampton on Monday night.

Fourth-placed Leeds United, four points behind Chelsea, face the prospect of a visit to Liverpool tomorrow and then follow up with a home match against Aston Villa on Sunday and could find themselves further off the pace entering 1998.

Forest sue Anderlecht over bribery scandal

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - English first division Nottingham Forest and 16 former players have started court action against Anderlecht over the 1984 UEFA Cup bribery scandal.

"The writ has been served," Forest's Belgian lawyer Filip Goemans said yesterday. "We had set today as the deadline but since we did not get a positive reaction, I was ordered to issue a summons."

The Belgian club's former chairman Constant Vanden Stock admitted in September having paid one million Belgian francs (\$27,000) as a "loan" to the Spanish referee in the second leg of the 1984 UEFA Cup semifinal which they won 3-0.

Forest, who had won the first leg 2-0, had a goal controversially dis-

allowed in the return leg.

Goemans said Forest had tried for three months to reach a financial settlement.

"But Anderlecht stick to their point of view that they cannot be blamed for anything," he said.

Anderlecht lawyer Luc Delen said the Belgian club was not prepared to negotiate a deal with Forest since it could not accept UEFA's decision "on attempted corruption or corruption."

Goemans said the summons by Forest managing director Phil Soar and 16 players had been issued against Anderlecht, Vanden Stock and Raymond De Deken, the club's official in charge of accompanying referees.

The club are claiming £1.5 million (\$2.5 million) and the players £200,000 each - plus interest.

Eager Taylor back at helm for first Test v. South Africa

MELBOURNE (AP) - Australian captain Mark Taylor returns to national duty in tomorrow's first Test against South Africa refreshed and ready for a tussle many believe will determine the world's best team.

Taylor was dropped from the Australian limited overs team but is back at the helm for the Melbourne Cricket Ground match.

Australia rate themselves the best team in world cricket and earlier this year beat the tourists 2-1 in South Africa.

South Africa have since scored a series win in Pakistan, a rare occurrence.

Taylor said he felt revitalized after the enforced break. "It's had a lot of positives for me," said Taylor of his

absence. "Obviously I would have loved to have been there for the one-dayers but, from a selfish point of view, I feel really fresh and I'm really looking forward to this game."

Taylor said the only days he did not enjoy during his three weeks out of the national spotlight were match days against South Africa and New Zealand.

"Some games I watched more than others, but I just tried to go about my own business," Taylor said.

Steve Waugh, who took over the captaincy in Taylor's absence, will return to his normal role of vice-captain. Australian paceman Glenn McGrath underwent two fitness tests for a muscle strain yesterday. He rated himself

Money
snag KO's
Holyfield-
Lewis bout

NEW YORK (AP) - Once again, an obstacle came between boxing and a unified heavyweight title.

Talks between HBO and Evander Holyfield, the WBA and IBF champion, broke off Tuesday morning because of a disagreement over the amount of money Holyfield would be guaranteed to fight WBC champ Lennox Lewis.

Holyfield wanted a guarantee of 1 million pay-per-view buys, and HBO was only willing to guarantee 650,000, plus all the profits above that mark, said Lou DiBella, the senior vice president for programming at Time Warner Sports, the pay-per-view arm of HBO.

Hopes for unification rose Monday when Lewis' promoter said a \$50 million deal was struck, and the fight was scheduled for April 25 in Las Vegas. But Holyfield and HBO, which has the exclusive rights to Lewis' fights, could not agree.

"We obviously had a great difference of opinion on what the appropriate guarantee for the fight was," DiBella said.

Holyfield's lawyer, Jim Thomas, wanted his client to be guaranteed at least as much money as he made for his fight against Michael Moorer.

According to Nevada boxing records, Holyfield made \$20 million for the November fight. The heavyweight title has not been unified since Riddick Bowe was stripped of the WBC title in 1992 for refusing to fight Lewis.

The 600,000 disabled Israeli people

say **THANK YOU**

The Umbrella Organization of Associations for the Disabled in Israel salutes the Organization of Shoharim and Israeli Friends of the Israel Museum, the Kahanoff Foundation of Canada and Israel, the National Insurance Institution, the Israel Government Tourist Corporation and the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Israel for their initiative, willingness and contribution to making the Israel Museum accessible for disabled people.

We hope that this important project will become a model for all public buildings in Israel.



THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF ASSOCIATIONS
FOR THE DISABLED IN ISRAEL